



# THE PATRIOT

March 2018

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Spring break (3/26 - 4/2) will be here before we know it! In the three weeks we have in March, IJHS is gearing up to be a busy place.

Beginning next week, NJHS kicks off their LLS fundraiser, Pasta for Pennies, which will culminate in a spirit week (3/19 - 3/23) and lip sync battle (3/21), which will be open to our parents, to be held after school.

On March 13, our Friends of Rachel Club has organized an event during the day to help build community amongst our students in response to the events in Florida and the national outcry. Our student body will be divided into 17 groups and engage in team building activities that encourage kindness and positive peer relationships.



## Track Season Starting

Our track season is gearing up for the start of the season. Practices start as early as March 19th with competitions beginning in April.

Track is our final conference athletic sport of the year. Students who would like to participate must have a current physical and insurance form on file and a signed

concussion form - both of these are required for all athletic teams.

Track is a great way to get involved in the school, develop friendships, and get in shape! We are looking forward to a strong season.



**PFA RESTAURANT NIGHT:** Please come out and support the PFA on Wed., March 21 from 4:30 - 8:30p at the Royalberry Waffle House!



**IJHS SPAGHETTI DINNER:** On March 19, from 4:00 - 8:00p the Drama Club is hosting their annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the spring play. Feel free to stay and eat or pick up take out!



**IJHS FINE ARTS NIGHT:** Come celebrate the arts on Thursday, March 22 at IJHS as we celebrate our Fine Arts Night with art, music, and singing!

# Mini Golf Anyone?

This is the question that our 7th graders in Ms. Bunnell's 7th grade 3rd period math class have been asking. In groups, students need to design one hole of the course; which they will all participate in after it has been completed. Groups have been tasked with designing a hole with specific criteria:

1. Best use of space with the least likelihood for a hole in one
2. Must consist of five of the following shapes: semicircle, circle, rectangle, square, triangle, trapezoid, parallelogram, or rhombus
3. Designs must be sketched on grid paper with labeled measurements
4. Scale drawings with a scale of  $1/4\text{in} = 3\text{ inches}$

The students have been busy constructing their designs from a wide variety of materials such as recycled cans/bottles, popsicle sticks, 2x4 wood, and cardboard.

In order to construct their holes, the students have had to demonstrate a great deal of mastery in measurement, perimeter, area, and geometry!

Students are expected to wrap up their construction this week before



the class takes to the course. Ms. Bunnell was able to receive some golf materials from the local Hollywood Park so that our future golfers can test their own course. Based on some of the designs (as seen below) the course is guaranteed to be challenging; for even the best the PGA has to offer.

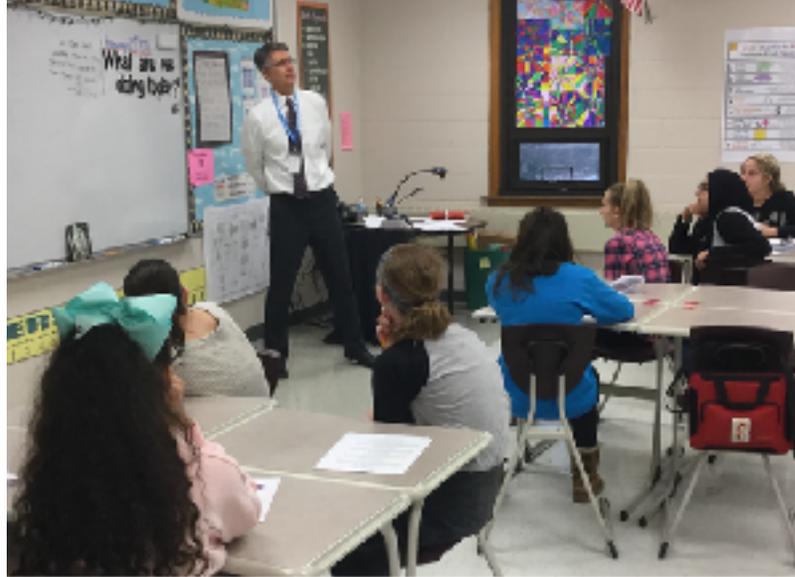
This project is just another example of the wonderful work our teachers are doing throughout IJHS to bring course content to life for these students. Efforts like this have a profound impact on motivating students to want to learn and enjoy what they are doing.



# Career Day a Success

Independence held its Career Day last week, on Friday, Feb. 23rd. All of our 6-8th graders participated as they visiting different professionals from a gamut of fields. The purpose of the event was to provide our students with valuable insight from professionals and provide guidance as they prepare for high school and beyond.

Mr. David Fewkes (pictured), a local lawyer, was just one of 18 professionals present at our Career Day. Independence is so appreciative of all of our guests for taking time out of their busy day to speak to our students.



The students themselves had many great comments regarding the day's presentations. I'd like to share a few

"Liked being introduced to careers that I typically don't know too much about."

"It was most valuable to learn how to talk with people (communicate/ collaborate)"

"I saw how important it is to stay in school and do well."

"Learning more about going to college and picking a career."

of them with our community:

"I got some great school suggestions."

## IJHS Speech Team Performs at Conference

On Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Richards High School, fifteen Independence Junior High school students participated in the SSJHSC Speech Conference.

It was a great end to a phenomenal season with a talented group of

competitors who performed declamation, poetry, and prose to bring home the first place trophy and five first place Conference Champion titles in 7<sup>th</sup> grade declamation, Maggie Gleason; 7<sup>th</sup> grade prose, Gordy Strooboscher; 8<sup>th</sup> grade declamation, Colton Sterling; 8<sup>th</sup> grade poetry, Tim Clancy, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

prose, Shea Fitzgerald. The team came home with 17 individual honors.

The students' speeches covered topics from domestic violence, jobs of the future, remembering our veterans, to coping with the discomfort of being in the same room with the boy you like.



The fifteen accomplished IJHS Speech team consists of Margaret Klinger, Margaret Gleason, Emma Riley, Kelly Stevens, Ella Correll, Gordy Strooboscher, Sabirah Taiwo, Rich Cinkus, Colton Sterling, Aidan Foertsch, Shea Fitzgerald, Tim Clancy, Elizabeth Lappano, Joe Cinkus, and Celestia Martinez.