



THE PATRIOT

February 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of second trimester is right around the corner! Report cards will be available online through TeacherEase on Friday, Mar. 2 as the grading period ends on Feb. 23.

As we enter into the final weeks leading up to the end of term, please make sure that your child has submitted any/all work and taken advantage of any corrections that need to be completed.

If your child needs additional help, make sure they are taking advantage of Math Lab after school on Thursdays or having conversations with their teachers about available times - I know many teachers make themselves available during lunch hours.



IJHS Career Day

It is with great excitement that IJHS welcomes Career Day! The event will be held on Friday, February 23rd from 12:30 - 2:30p. In the morning students will follow a shortened schedule to ensure that students attend all classes with lunch occurring midday. The afternoon will be broken down by four sessions of 25 minutes where students will be

able to see presentations by almost 20 different professionals.

This idea sprouted during a conversation with a group of students last year. During a discussion on high school and college readiness, students offered

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SCHOOL SUPPLIES: As we are halfway through the school year, some of our students have been running low on supplies. Please check with your child regarding any need for pens, pencils, etc.



8th GRADE ATHLETIC NIGHT: Please join us for our final boys basketball home game on Tuesday, Feb. 20 where we will be honoring our 8th grade boys basketball, cheerleaders, and Poms just before the start of the 8th grade game.



VALENTINES DAY DANCE: The Student Council is hosting an IJHS Valentines Day Dance on Wed., Feb. 14 after school from 3:00 - 4:30. They will be selling tickets and concessions.

Giving Students Voice in the Classroom

Student voice and choice is a phrase often discussed; especially in the past five years. However, it is not one of the easiest strategies to demonstrate or in some cases, create in a classroom. Sometimes it is even easier to say that students of a certain age cannot really perform such deeper cognitive skill.

Sometimes, however, it just takes the courage to take a risk and let students run with an idea.

Recently, Mrs. Rolla's 6th grade class was engaged in a Gizmos activity on speed and velocity, to name a few. Gizmos is a fun, interactive program online that allows students to run investigations relatively quickly and then gather data and analyze it. During this particular Gizmos, students had to drop a series of objects from a certain height and try not to have the object crash upon hitting the ground. One object was a soccer ball, one was a golf ball, and one was a ping pong ball and each

object included an option to deploy a parachute.

This activity led some students to introduce the idea of creating their own egg drops. They would design a model that would allow a raw egg to fall from a height without cracking, with and without a parachute. Mrs. Rolla demonstrated the courage to roll

device, which worked quite well, to the surprise of many 6th graders.

Sure, this added investigation "ate" up more time than if it had been ignored, but the level of understanding of these concepts that students learned through an activity that was relevant to them was far worth the time spent. This very idea is

exactly what many educators are referring to when they discuss finding and making a connection between course content and student interest. When we can do that, students are more intrinsically motivated to learn. The design of Mrs. Rolla's students' egg drops is evidence of that.

To risk using another educational term, this is a great example of a low floor high ceiling task. All students designed at least a basic model to drop an egg, but it allowed students the opportunity to also apply their knowledge of air resistance, size, weight, its effect on velocity and acceleration, etc.

This activity not just gave students voice, but it allowed them to take control of their learning - a concept that has a significant benefit to overall student learning.



with it, and each of her 6th grade science classes were immediately hooked. Student designs were unique, elaborate, and for the most part, rather successful. Even Mr. Janotta got into the mix creating his egg drop

Community at IJHS

Over the past week and continuing into next week, I've been getting around to our 5th/6th period classes to talk about the community we have at IJHS. Often times we think about community and leave Independence out of that conversation.

The students I've spoken with already, have provided many wonderful definitions of community; two specific ones are a group of people working together and having shared expectations. Each of these would be a way to describe Independence.

The purpose for having these conversations is because within our community we (staff, students, and parents) must hold ourselves to our



high level of expectations - including our behavior. Adolescent children will make mistakes and bad choices. However, we cannot allow that to be okay.

When students are posed with the scenario of observing a person breaking a law on the street, outside of school, students all respond with needing to report to the police.

However, when posed with a scenario of observing a child getting made fun, pushed, or other poor choices adolescent children will make, few, if

any, have stated that they would tell a teacher.

My hope in having these conversations is that it raises awareness to the fact that what might be acceptable or common place in other schools is not okay here. At IJHS, we stand up for one another and while we may not always agree with another, we demonstrate respect. There is this notion I hear about "snitching" from some of the students. I hope to see an end to this and replace it with the model that this is our community and we don't condone such behavior - much like we'd expect from our fellow citizens of Palos Heights.

IJHS Career Day - Feb. 23, 2018

the suggestion that a career day would be a great opportunity to provide our students with valuable information pertaining to a wide range of careers and guidance as they enter high school and college. We quickly agreed that this could give help best prepare our students for life after IJHS.

Since reaching out to our community in the fall for volunteers, we now have almost 20 different professions represented. We are incredibly thankful for the outpouring of support from our community!

Within the next two weeks, our students will be asked to rank their

five most interested careers from the ones we have available. From this list we hope to get our students to most of these presentations. Due to the size of classes and opportunities available, some students will see careers they may not have selected, but will still gain invaluable knowledge.

A few of the professions/fields that will be represented at our Career Day are:

Lawyer

Finance/Accounting

Nuclear Engineering

Health Care

Dentist

Technology/Information Systems

Web Development/Photography

Doctor

Mechanical Engineer

Civil Engineer

Speech Pathologist

Police and Fire

We are greatly looking forward to this wonderful event and thank you to everyone who helped make it