

ICMS & ICHS COUGAR CHAT

MARCH 2023



The 8th Grade Wax Museum was a huge success! We had students dressed up as Abraham Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Albert Einstein, Ronald McDonald, Simone Biles, Pocahontas, and more! Mr. Burks's students worked hard researching their character and planning for their presentation. It was a fun time for all!

SPRING MUSICAL

We hope you will join us for our Spring musical - The Trail To Oregon - Show Dates are March 30th, March 31st, and April 1st - shows begin at 7PM each night!

Each night of the show YOU, the audience, get to name the characters in your Wagon Party, you get to choose who dies, and no two shows will EVER be the same!

Warning: This show is PG-13, and younger audience members should be accompanied by a parent or be given written parental permission to watch this show.

Feel free to pre-order a ticket! Student tickets are \$5, adult tickets are \$9. By Pre-Ordering a ticket, you get a free bottled soda (Ski - or similar item from concessions) and a signed photo from the cast. After filling out a Pre-Order form and attaching payment, hand the form to a member of the cast, crew, or Mr. Damann. The Pre-Order form must be received by Mr. Damann, at the latest, the day before the show you attend in order for you to receive your pre-order gifts.

Reach out to a member of the cast, crew, or Mr. Damann for any more information.

ILLINI CENTRAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

THE TRAIL TO OREGON!

MARCH 30TH - APRIL 1ST

ILLINI CENTRAL HS GYM - MASON CITY, IL

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

SHOW TIME AT 7:00PM

TICKET PRICES: STUDENT \$5/ADULT \$9

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FEATURING

ELI PARR AS FATHER
LUCIA LEAMON AS MOTHER
GWENDOLYN REAGAN AS DAUGHTER
OLIVIA BITNER AS SON
BEN FLATLEY AS GRANDPA
VICENTE CUSTODIO AS MCDOON

WARNING: This show is PG-13, and contains a few moments of strong language.

STARKID

MIDDLE SCHOOL STANDARDIZED TESTING

Beginning April 11th, students in grades 6–8 will once again participate in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). IAR will continue to provide parents and educators with detailed information about individual student progress and academic growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics. This data is important as it helps to highlight areas of strength and those in need of improvement as we strive to continually advance the quality of our educational programming toward mastering the Illinois Learning Standards. Teachers use the results of this and other assessments to help tailor instruction to your child's specific learning needs and to help prepare students for college and careers later in life.

This year, the IAR will consist of three units of Mathematics and three units of English/Language Arts in each grade level. Students will take one test each morning, and the schedule has been modified to allow students to continue with the school day afterward. The hope is to have all testing completed by Tuesday, April 18th. Make-up assessments will be administered as needed.

Students will be testing using Chromebooks. Students are encouraged to bring their wired headphones to school on testing days, as some parts of the assessment include audio/video elements. Students' cell phones must remain powered off during the entire testing session. When students finish the test, they may read a school-appropriate book or magazine or work on homework unrelated to the subject area being tested that day.

Parents can help their students by:

- Encouraging students to stay positive and do their best on these assessments
- Making sure students get a good night's sleep before testing
- Eating a good breakfast each morning
- Ensuring that students arrive at school on time and remain in attendance throughout testing

All public schools in Illinois are required by state and federal law to administer the IAR assessment. Parents can learn more about IAR at <https://www.isbe.net/iar>.

HIGH SCHOOL STANDARDIZED TESTING

On Wednesday, April 12, 2023, students at Illini Central High School will participate in the mandated state testing. Freshmen students will take the PSAT 8/9, sophomores will take the PSAT 10, and juniors will take the SAT. Completion of the SAT is a requirement for graduation in the state of Illinois.

Some students with approved accommodations may be testing on an alternate date, and if this is the case, one of the counselors will be in touch with the parents before testing.

The PSAT/SAT assessments will continue to provide parents and educators with information about individual student progress and academic growth, and college readiness. This data is important as it helps to highlight areas of strength and those in need of improvement as we strive to advance the quality of our educational programming continually. Teachers use the results of this and other assessments to help tailor instruction to your child's specific learning needs and to help prepare students for college and careers later in life.

Students may not have their cell phones in the testing room. If a cell phone is visible during testing, the student will be dismissed from testing, and the test will be invalid.

Parents can help their students by:

- Encouraging students to stay positive and do their best on the assessment
- Making sure students get a good night's sleep before testing
- Eating a good breakfast in the morning
- Ensuring that students arrive at school on time and remain in attendance throughout testing

All public schools in Illinois are required by state and federal law to administer the PSAT/SAT assessment. Parents can learn more about these assessments at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/sat-psat.aspx>.

While the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are testing, seniors will be at the Mason City Community Chapel working on finalizing their Capstone requirements. Seniors may bring whatever materials they need to work on their projects. Teachers and counselors will be available to answer questions and provide support. A Subway lunch will be free for the seniors since they will be off-campus while the underclassmen test.

ILLINOIS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) on April 25. The ISA aligns with our new Illinois Learning Standards in science. This assessment helps families understand how well students are performing academically and see whether they are on track to succeed in college. The ISA represents Illinois' commitment to preparing all students for college and careers, including the high-demand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The assessment also satisfies federal accountability requirements.

The ISA is designed to reflect classroom experiences. Many students who took the assessment last year said the ISA seemed more like instruction than a test. Students do not simply select an answer and fill in the bubble of a multiple-choice test. Rather, the ISA pushes students to apply their knowledge when they give answers, thus better preparing them for higher education and a career. All students deserve the opportunity to demonstrate what they know; they get to see how knowledge is applied to real-life situations.

The ISA has three sections. The average student time-on-task is estimated at 120 minutes. The results provide administrators with important data to help them make broad curriculum decisions at the school and district levels; however, classroom educators will not use the results to make teaching adjustments year-to-year for individual students.

We encourage you to talk with your children about the importance of doing their best on the ISA, while communicating that the assessment yields only one piece of information about them and their school's progress. Students' attendance, classroom work, homework, projects, performance on local tests, participation in sports and extracurricular activities, and contributions to the school's climate and culture all help them grow and learn.

We all work together to ensure Illinois students build a cohesive understanding of science over time. Thank you for your role in developing lifelong learners and successful citizens.



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CAREER READINESS AT ICHS

As a graduation requirement, all students at ICHS are required to complete the Capstone Project. As part of the project, students must complete various assignments and activities to prepare them for their future careers.

All sophomores, juniors, and seniors will have completed mock job interviews by the end of the month. We had several volunteers from the community assist in these interviews!

Throughout the year, students have visited various trade schools, college campuses, and employment opportunities. In various classes, students have complete self-assessments, reflections, long-term financial plans, and interviews with professionals. Additionally, students have participated in seminars about traditional interviews, behavioral interviews, and resumes taught by business experts, not just the staff at ICHS.

We aim to provide students with opportunities for their future once they walk across the stage at graduation. This graduation requirement prepares students with an opportunity for a successful future.

On April 26th, all seniors will present their Reverse Career Fair presentations to the public starting at 9am. We are still in need of some judges for this event. Email Dr. Durbin (jdurbin@illinicentral.org) if you are interested in judging.

DUAL CREDIT AT ICHS

Any current sophomore or junior who would like to take dual credit courses through ICC next year will need to take the

Accuplacer test to qualify (unless the student has previously passed the test).

ICHS offers this test to our students on Wednesday, March 29th, at 8:00 am.

Anyone interested should talk with Mrs. Arms (aarms@illinicentral.org) to reserve their spot for the test. Before a spot can be reserved, the student must apply to ICC. For a list of course offerings, contact Mrs. Arms.

If students cannot test on this date, they must make arrangements directly with ICC.

PBIS FIELD TRIPS

Middle school students will have the opportunity to go bowling on the following dates:

March 31st - 8th Grade

April 4 - 7th Grade

April 5 - 6th Grade

On May 5th, the high school student council is working with the PBIS committee to plan a fun day for all high school students that qualify. Students will enjoy a free day of bowling, a trip to the park, and a visit to the Dari Belle (at students' response).

To qualify for these trips, students must pass all of their classes and have three or fewer discipline referrals and no suspensions.

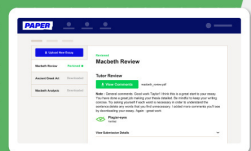
STAY INFORMED:

Website:
www.illinicentral.org

Facebook:
Illini Central School District #189

Twitter:
@ICCougars189

- Chat with a tutor 24/7
- Writing feedback
- All academic subjects



PAPER
**Paper tutors
are here to help**

app.paper.co

Illini Central uses a variety of ways to contact parents about important information. Social media is only part of the way we communicate with our families.

We use information from Skyward to communicate with families through phone calls, text messages, and emails. Please make sure your information is correct so we can share important information with you.

Sports Updates:

Twitter: @WeAreICSports

Facebook: The Illini Central Sports Network

UPCOMING DATES:

March 20-24 - Spring Break - No School!

March 29 - 11:30 dismissal and Accuplacer test for students interested in dual credit

March 30-April 1 - Spring Musical 7pm

March 31 - 8th Grade Bowling Trip

April 4 - 7th Grade Bowling Trip

April 5 - 6th Grade Bowling Trip

April 7, 10 - No School

April 11-18 - MS IAR Testing for 6-8th graders

April 12 - PSAT/SAT for 9-11th graders (Capstone work day for Seniors)

April 18 - NHS Blood Drive

April 25 - Illinois Science Assessment for 8th and 11th graders

April 26 - Reverse Career Fair for Seniors - 11:30 Dismissal

May 6 - Promenade 4 pm, Prom 8-11 pm

May 8 - AP Calculus Exam

May 19 - 1:30 pm HS Awards Assembly

May 24 - Last day of attendance for 8th graders and seniors - 2:00 Dismissal

Middle School Awards Ceremony 10:00 am

8th Grade Commitment to Graduation Ceremony 6pm

May 25 - 2:00 Dismissal - HS semester exams - Last day of attendance for all students!

May 28 - HS Graduation 2 pm