



# Promise

Fall  
2021

## A Brave Publication

Indian Hill Exempted Village School District

# HISTORY IS MADE

**“In this moment, we embark on a new journey together –  
a journey to Build a Brave Future.”**

- Superintendent Kirk Koennecke, Indian Hill Middle School Groundbreaking Ceremony



[Indianhillschools.org](https://www.Indianhillschools.org)





## A message from our Superintendent

As the superintendent of the Indian Hill School District, it is my privilege to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! This school year will truly be like no other. Thanks to YOUR investment in our schools, our team is working in partnership with our students, our parents, our community, our faculty, and our staff to Build a Brave future for generations to come.

### Our Buildings

With the formal groundbreaking August 31, construction has started on the new Indian Hill Middle School. Braves all over the world will be able to use the Indian Hill School District website to track construction progress in real time through the use of a live construction camera on the District's Building a Brave Future: Indian Hill Facilities Transition Resource. Be on the lookout for a monthly video update on both design and construction progress with our Brave Construction Zone video series!

### Our Strategic Plan

Additionally, we are working with more than 270 members of the community to develop a new strategic plan which will guide us for years to come. We are incredibly excited to see that important work unfold in the coming months.

The smiling faces on the cover of this publication say it all. Our students are our WHY. We look forward to creating, with you, a place where their dreams continue to come true.

In service to our children,

Kirk Koennecke  
Superintendent  
Indian Hill School District  
Kirk.Koennecke@ihsd.us  
 @ihsuperbrave



Building a Brave Future:  
Indian Hill Facilities  
Transition Resource



**Our Brave team is sharing the #IHPromise story like never before!  
Check out the new ways to stay connected  
to the news you need this school year!**



**IHPS Principal**  
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**IHHS Principal**  
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**IHES Principal**  
**Whitney Buell**  
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**Our building leaders are Tweeting GREAT news about students and staff each week!**

Our building leaders are recording and sharing videos about students and staff you don't want to miss! Each week, you can get engaged with this fantastic storytelling by following our buildings on Twitter!



**Unparalleled Arts & Athletics - we have them!**

Follow Athletic Director Brian Phelps and Arts and Activities Director Amy Clark to get a backstage pass to all our big events! Along with our building leaders, you can catch the Athletic 60-Second Spotlight and Access IH Arts on Twitter each week!



**Brave Construction Zone**

We are all incredibly excited to share progress on the construction across our campus. Welcome to the Brave Construction Zone – a monthly video progress report hosted by Superintendent Kirk Koennecke. Each month, we will provide an update on design and construction.



**FIELD TRIP FRIDAYS!**

This school year, we begin a new series called FIELD TRIP FRIDAYS! We say that with such excitement because we are authentically excited to take you inside our buildings and visit with our administrators and educators to see how our students learn each week!



**Indian Hill Master Class**

They author books, receive national recognition from prestigious universities, even offer professional development to university-level educators and administrators – the Indian Hill School District faculty is world-class, and our people make the difference for our students. In eight episodes that will air each month, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Melissa Stewart shines the spotlight on our excellent educators, bringing them to the stage to teach us all how to be masters at helping children grow.



**beBRAVE - Sign up to receive District news!**

We are sharing all of these exciting new features that tell our Brave story each week within our weekly digital newsletter, beBRAVE! Make sure you are signed up to receive this publication, which also provides you with important financial updates.





# Unparalleled Opportunities

## Braves Make Headlines



Indian Hill School District  
#1 in Ohio!



Indian Hill School District  
#7 in Ohio!



Indian Hill Exempted Village School  
District is a 2021 Top Workplace!  
7 Years Running



Project Lead The Way Distinguished School in  
STEM two years & running!  
IHHS is one of only 204 high school programs  
nationally to receive this distinction for the  
2020-2021 school year!

## Welcome Class of 2034!

### Join us as we celebrate our youngest Braves!

Superintendent Kirk Koenneke took the bus to Indian Hill Primary School to greet the newest members of our Brave family - our kindergarten class - for their first day of school!



## Indian Hill High School Mock Trial Team third in the nation!

Congratulations to the IHHS Mock Trial team for earning third in the nation during the exclusive Yale Bulldog Invitational National Champions tournament!

## National Merit recognizes 15 Indian Hill High School students

**Six Braves named Semifinalists in the 2022 scholarship competition**

Indian Hill High School congratulates the 15 students who were recognized as part of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their outstanding performance last year on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Six students from Indian Hill High School have qualified for the National Merit Semifinalist Competition: Julianne Allspach, Anne Joy, Nikhil Nayak, Ryan Rammacher, Hannah Tran, and Kathy Zhao.

In addition, eight Indian Hill High School students have been recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars: Gulirano Almuratova, Isaac Fiore, Hunter Gillan, Tacey Hutten, Gwennyth Josche, Sophia Liu, Tejas Pisati, and Ethan Simonds.

Indian Hill High School also had one student, Kathryn Yanes Diehl, recognized as a National Hispanic Scholar.



## Indian Hill High School student building company following entrepreneur competition

**Senior Claire Hardek earned top spot in Cintrifuse-sponsored educational program**

Learning did not pause for one Indian Hill High School student during the summer, and now senior Claire Hardek is working to set up shop after winning the new startup competition during the "Entrepreneurs Change the World Pitch" sponsored by Cintrifuse. Hardek spent eight weeks participating in the virtual educational program and pitch competition for aspiring entrepreneurs.

"I'm so excited to have this amazing opportunity," said Hardek. "Cintrifuse provided a fantastic assortment of resources that guided our team to start the Y Company."

Hardek's team - the Y Company - is a sustainable clothing company designed to replace the use of non-biodegradable polyester. Winning teams, with support from corporate sponsors, earned a year-long mentorship and cash prizes; business ideas focused on sustainability, diversity, fintech, education, and health-tech.

## Indian Hill High School educator earns Outstanding Teacher of the Year

Indian Hill High School congratulates Project Lead The Way (PLTW) educator Myrtis Smith for earning the national recognition of PLTW Outstanding Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022. Smith was one of only 79 PLTW teachers across the U.S. to be recognized. Smith leads Indian Hill High School's nationally

recognized science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program, in partnership with Great Oaks. Project Lead The Way has recognized Indian Hill High School two consecutive years as a "PLTW Distinguished School" for STEM learning. Indian Hill High School was one of only 204 high school programs nationally to receive this distinction for the 2020-2021 school year.



## 2021-2022 Their Dream, Our #IHPromise

At the start of each new school year, we enjoy a photo day for our building website pages. Each year, we ask our students the same question, "What do you dream to become when you grow up?" This year, we captured their responses on video for this special presentation.

*Please note that student masks were only removed for the brief recording.*



## Indian Hill High School students earn OMEA All-State music accolades

The lucky number is 13 for Indian Hill students selected to perform with the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Band, Orchestra, and Choir for 2022! Students selected for the All-State ensembles will perform at the 2022 OMEA State Conference, which takes place the first weekend in February in Cleveland.

The complete list of Indian Hill High School students performing includes:

**Band:** Jessie Chan, Grace Zhou (alternate)

**Orchestra:** Kate McGrath, Elsa Zhou (alternate)

**Choir:** Connor Coffman, Joshua Knehan, Miles Taylor, Hayden Longbottom, Emma Stacey, Hrishi Rawat, Joseph Kayne, Claire Hardek, and Sarika Singh



**BMB #1!**  
**Braves Marching Band**  
**Taylor Invitational:**

**First in class!**  
**Best percussion!**  
**Best guard!**  
**Best music!**  
**Best general effect!**  
**Best visual!**

**Congratulations to our amazing students and their fantastic directors!**

## Homecoming Fall 2021 Welcome home, Braves!



**Thank you to the Jeff Wyler Automotive Family for the donation of our new scoreboard!**



**Annie Isphording**  
**- Committed -**  
**Women's Soccer**  
**- Johns Hopkins University**



**Will Adair**  
**- Committed -**  
**Men's Lacrosse**  
**- Cleveland State University**



**Sport Nutritionist, Dawn Weatherwax spoke to Indian Hill student-athletes in September!**

**We are pleased to report that Indian Hill High School Gym is now equipped with air conditioning!**

**Check out the new Brave Wrestling Room!**





FROM THE COVER:  
**HISTORY IS MADE**



**GROUND IS BROKEN!**



**SEE  
CONSTRUCTION  
LIVE!**



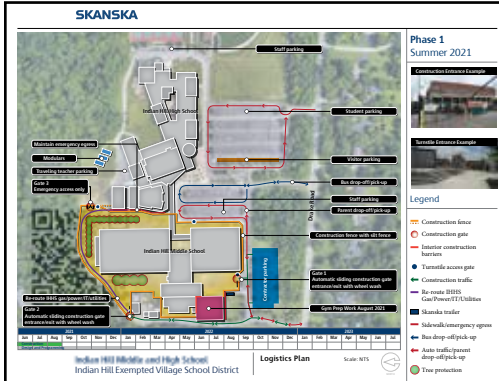
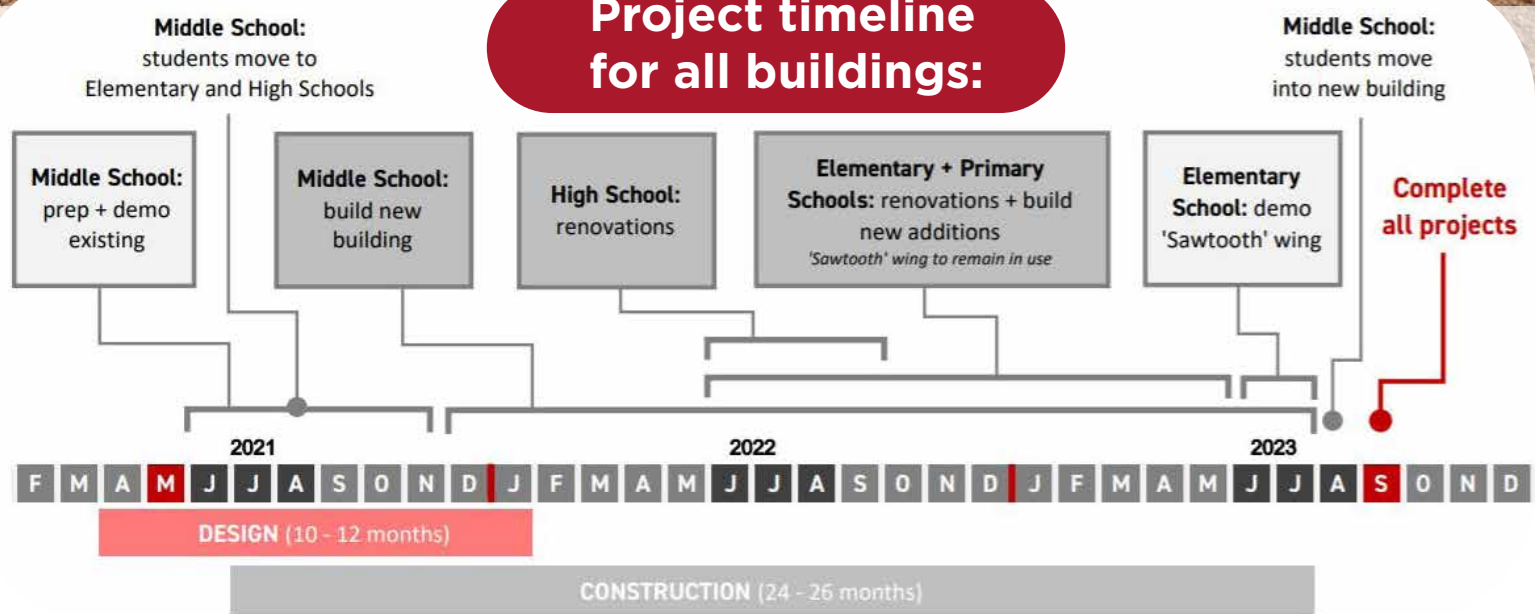




# BUILDING A BRAVE FUTURE: INDIAN HILL FACILITIES TRANSITION RESOURCE

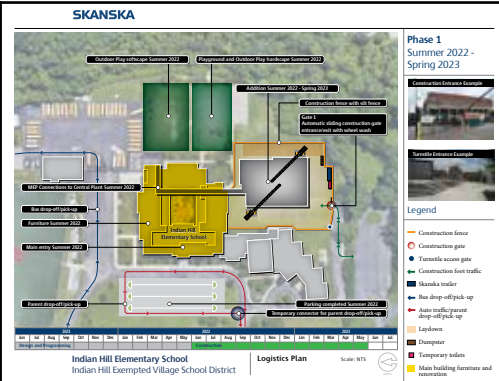


## Project timeline for all buildings:



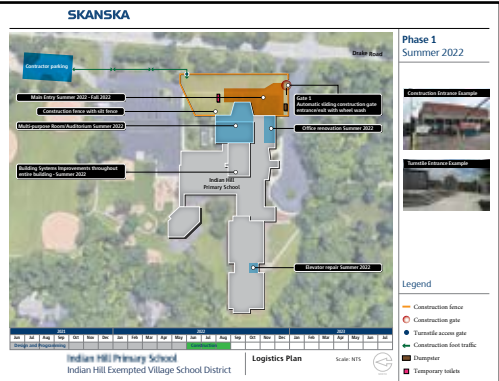
**Indian Hill Middle School & Indian Hill High School**

Scan QR code to see all phases of construction.



**Indian Hill Elementary School**

Scan QR code to see all phases of construction.



**Indian Hill Primary School**

Scan QR code to see all phases of construction.



## Indian Hill Exempted Village School District

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The Indian Hill Exempted Village School District serves students in the Village of Indian Hill, Kenwood, parts of Sycamore and Symmes Township, Camp Dennison and a small portion of Loveland.



### Indian Hill Exempted Village School District Board of Education

(Left to Right) Elizabeth Johnston, Member; Nancy Aichholz, VP of Operations; Dr. Eddie Hooker, President; Kim Martin Lewis, VP of Finance; Niki Singh, Member

## Meet our team!



### Amy Epperson, Assistant Principal

[Amy.Epperson@ihsd.us](mailto:Amy.Epperson@ihsd.us)

Twitter: @AP\_IHHS

My #IHPromise - to be intentional about making all students feel seen, heard, comfortable sharing their voices, and motivated to be the best persons they can be, as well as successful, contributing global citizens.



### Drew Renner, Assistant Principal

[Drew.Renner@ihsd.us](mailto:Drew.Renner@ihsd.us)

Twitter: @IHMS\_AP

My #IHPromise - to apply my full effort, while working alongside my team, to provide an exceptional middle school experience while encouraging students to be great people and great scholars.



### Cash Hayden, Assistant Principal

[Cash.Hayden@ihsd.us](mailto:Cash.Hayden@ihsd.us)

Twitter: @IHElementary

My #IHPromise - to forge relationships with students and help them grow as problem solvers.



### Andy Gruber, Assistant Principal

[Andy.Gruber@ihsd.us](mailto:Andy.Gruber@ihsd.us)

Twitter: @IHPrimary\_AP

My #IHPromise - to provide a culture where all students can be their best self every single day.



### Amy Clark, District Arts & Activities Director

Indian Hill School District

[Amy.Clark@ihsd.us](mailto:Amy.Clark@ihsd.us)

Twitter: @IHSD\_Arts

My #IHPromise - to wake up each day energized to support the dreams, passions, and goals of our students and staff, and to end each day with excitement to bring that same energy back day after day!