



# Promise

Summer/Fall  
2019

## A Brave Publication

Indian Hill Exempted Village School District

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**Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year, Braves!**

[Indianhillschools.org](http://Indianhillschools.org)





## A message from our **Superintendent**


What a story we are busy crafting  
for the 2019-2020 school year!

Since the first day of class, and even before – we have been creating Brave moments that we hope will last for our Braves long after they leave our classrooms. Within these pages, you will see the #IHPromise in action – from academics, to arts, to athletics – we strive to provide each student with unparalleled opportunities.

Together, we will continue to  
Build a Brave Future!

In service to our children,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Kirk Koennecke.

Kirk Koennecke  
Superintendent  
Indian Hill School District  
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## A message from Treasurer Mick Davis

Building a Brave future – at the Indian Hill School District, that is the work we are engaged in with you, our investor, and our community of organizations that support our mission of *Enduring Excellence in Learning, Leadership, Innovation, and Service*. To share a few highlights:



**Boosters**  
\$79,321  
Donated



**PTO**  
\$64,809  
Donated



**Homeowner  
taxes to school  
went down in 2019**

Due to a bond that expired, District residents saw an annual reduction of \$304 on a \$500,000 home, and an annual savings of \$609 on a \$1 million home. During the life of the bonds, the District did an excellent job managing the bond issue – structuring the refinancing of bonds to achieve taxpayer savings of \$8.5 million.



**Operating levy  
history**

Our last voter-approved operating levy, which funds the District's day-to-day expenses, was passed more than 25 years ago, and it was not renewed by the Board of Education in 1998. During this time, our schools have had to absorb funding cuts, changes in tax laws, and inflationary cost increases. This continues to strain our District's ability to maintain current educational services, facilities, and learning opportunities that are key to the mission of our District.

### Digital Arts Technology Lab opens at Indian Hill High School



Collaboration and innovation – that is the heart of both the intent for a new digitally-rich learning environment within Indian Hill High School, and the funding that made the science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) classroom a reality. The design started

with a desire expressed directly by students to have access to a facility to pursue their passion for learning in the fields of digital arts and digital science, and the project was funded through alumni support led by Dean and Anne Kereiakes and Beth and Doug Brendamour through the Indian Hill Foundation. The space, which was designed to optimize use of technology for large groups while also serving as a collaboration space for small-group learning, is scheduled for use for two areas of study – computer science and graphic arts.

### Home of the Braves



We are also thrilled to share our dedicated Indian Hill Foundation has reached its fundraising goal to building the new \$4.25 million Home of the Braves, a multi-use athletic facility and welcome plaza. It was just a little over one year ago the District and the Indian Hill Foundation entered into the District's first ever public-

private partnership. The District had previously committed \$1 million to renovate the football locker rooms at Tomahawk Stadium. The hope, however, was that through its new partnership, the Indian Hill Foundation could leverage that \$1 million into funds sufficient to build an entirely new facility that would benefit a multitude of sports teams as well as coaches, trainers and visitors alike.

As your treasurer, I will continue to provide you timely financial updates. As always, I thank you for your continued support of the excellent educational services we provide within the Indian Hill School District. Should you have any questions about our District's finances, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Mick.Davis@indianhillschools.org



### School updates needed

We are diverting funds from the operating budget to pay for needed building improvements and emergency repairs. Due to this demand on our budget, the District launched a Facilities Assessment Task Force comprised of community members, parents, and staff members in 2018. Work and planning to fully assess the school facilities within the Indian Hill School District continue and remain on schedule.



# Unparalleled Opportunities



## Braves Make Headlines



### National Merit Students

Congratulations to the 17 Indian Hill High School (IHHS) students who were recognized as part of the National Merit Scholarship

Corporation. Eleven students have qualified for the National Merit Semifinalist Competition: Sean Bridge, Lynn Choi, Nicholas Gillan, Ethan Horton, Margaret Jutze, Charles Lindberg, Alison Ma, Kathy Ning, Jonah Sorscher, William Taylor, and Kimberly Zwolschen. Six students have been recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars: Wandrille Bonniol, William Campa, Min-Seo Kim, Elizabeth Radway, Ian Siegert, and Manasi Singh.

### BEST Braves

It was a team of eight high school students on a Brave mission – to promote oral health in rural China.

The IHHS Braves were first invited in June as highlighted speakers to share the mission and vision of the IHHS student-founded nonprofit organization Better Education for Stronger Teeth (BEST), which they were presenting to a crowd of 100,000 dental health professionals at the Sino-Dental Annual Exhibition. The Brave summer adventure didn't end with the presentation. The IHHS students, along with 30 local dentists and nurses as volunteers, traveled to 10 schools to teach 3,980 children the importance of oral health. With sponsorship from the Chinese Oral Health Foundation, the IHHS students were able to donate oral health supplies to all 10 schools, working 10 hour days, and traveling to three to four schools each day. Under the leadership of IHHS Senior Diana Yue, BEST has helped 11,000 students around the world!



### Indian Hill High School senior earns President's Gold Volunteer Service Award

It isn't often official stationary arrives in the mail from The White House with a signed letter by the President of the United States ... if ever – but, that is just what arrived at the house of IHHS senior Manasi Singh. The letter was a personal congratulation for her selection as a recipient of the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award. "Receiving this award has meant the world to me because it recognized that the work I've been doing is really helping people," said Singh. "It's easy to question if what you're doing actually matters on a large scale when you're working with such a big organization where the youth population is so minimal, but this award has been humbling and is truly an honor to receive." Singh was recognized for her work with the American Red Cross.

### Mock Trial Team



The IHHS Mock Trial Team earned sixth place during the Empire Atlanta Mock Trial World Championship; the team has ranked in the international Top Ten for four consecutive years!



## Singing Braves

Our singing Braves made the big screen at the September 24 Reds game presenting the national anthem!

## Indian Hill High School students to perform with Ohio All-State Choir, Orchestra, and Band

Indian Hill High School (IHHS) salutes the eight Braves selected to perform with the Ohio All-State Choir, the Ohio All-State Orchestra, and the Ohio All-State Band for 2020. The performances will be held in Cincinnati the end of January. Student vocalists and musicians must complete a rigorous audition process and are chosen in a blind audition by professionals, identified only by their performance and a number. The IHHS students chosen include:

### Choir

- Junior Jasper Bennett
- Junior Luke Castellini
- Sophomore Claire Hardek
- Senior Claudia Hollander
- Sophomore Gwen Josche
- Junior John Kushman

### Orchestra

- Senior Alison Ma

### Band

- Sophomore Jessie Chan



Volleyball win 300 for Coach Ellen Hughes!



State Champion Track Team Ring Ceremony!



Braves Teaching Braves... IHHS student-athletes read to IHPS students as part of a national mentoring/reading program!

## Meet Coach Jamey Foley:

Indian Hill High School announces new lacrosse coach

Welcome to the next leader for the Braves Boys' Lacrosse Team - Coach Jamey Foley! Coach Foley comes to IHHS with more than 15 years of experience in coaching and mentoring high school athletes. "I am absolutely honored and excited to be a part of such great community and program here at Indian Hill," said Coach Foley. "I'm looking forward to building on the great success the Indian Hill program has experienced, and with the support of the community and the hard work of the players and coaches, taking Indian Hill lacrosse to a new level." Coach Foley founded Headlines Lacrosse in 2015 where he has coached elite-level players in the Cincinnati area. He has been active in the Lakota lacrosse community for the last five years; last year, Coach Foley coached the Lakota East Junior High Boys' Lacrosse Team to a 14-5 record, earning the highest seed in the state tournament in program history.

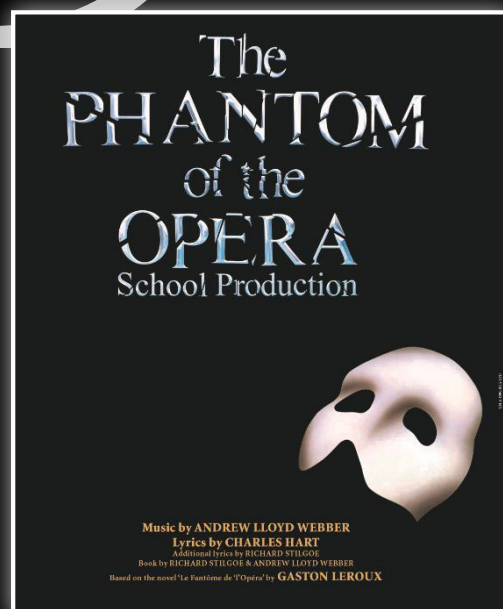




# Phantom of the Opera!

## Indian Hill High School presents Pow Wow 2020: Phantom of the Opera

This school year – a Brave Pow Wow debut: *Phantom of the Opera*. We are so excited about what is sure to be an incredible performance, we had our own pow wow with Indian Hill High School (IHHS) teacher and show director Jeff Clark to get the details! Clark – in his fourth year as a Brave and his 19th year in teaching – is best known for directing competitive show choirs; he says he is ready to lead Pow Wow – a time-honored tradition of excellence in musical entertainment for our community. See what he has to say about the highly anticipated *Phantom of the Opera* production below, and mark your calendars NOW for the performances February 20-22!



Jeff Clark (JC):

Indian Hill School District (IHSD):

**Phantom of the Opera is so well known – what makes it so special?**

It is the longest running show on Broadway, and for good reason. The songs and the story are timeless, and I think the mystery draws people in. While it's a love story, it's also about acceptance, conquering your personal demons, and – spoiler alert – realizing that not all stories have happy endings!

IHSD:

**We understand there will be many Indian Hill students involved in the 2020 Pow Wow Production off the stage ... can you explain?**

JC:

We've already reached out to other student groups to make this production involve the greater student community. We're hoping to have our award-winning Robotics team assist in some of the special effects, our visual artists help recreate iconic scenes, and our French Club be part of the process as we dive into learning about Paris near the turn of the century. As you know, our students are VERY involved in many sports and activities, so I also would like to make sure that if someone wants to be involved, even if in just the big "Masquerade" scene, that we find a place for them to be part of the Pow Wow experience. It's something they will never forget!

IHSD:

**What are you most excited for?**

JC:

There's so much to be excited about! We have an incredible team assembled to bring out the best in every facet of our students. From our amazing IH Tech Crew to assist with the magical stage effects under Mr. Kimmins, to the iconic sounds that will be coming from our instrumentalists led by Mr. Barker and Mrs. Emmons, ballet corps instruction by Jay Goodlett, and also individual drama coaching by Cincinnati all-star Ed Cohen, we know this will be a production not to be missed!

IHSD:

**How can Braves "follow" Phantom?**

JC:

You can keep up with the show process from our Instagram at @ihstheatre, and we will also have some live updates through the Indian Hill School District Facebook page. Auditions will be the last week of October, but students can come see me at any time with questions! Tickets will be available for pre-reservation near the end of 2019. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Check out some of the other Brave productions taking place during the 2019-2020 school year:

**October 17-19**

7:30 p.m.

IHHS Auditorium  
Fall Play *The Triangle*  
Factory Fires Project

**November 23**

7:00 p.m.

IHHS Auditorium  
*Carmina Burana*

**December 7**

6:30 p.m.

IHHS Auditorium  
*Cabaret*

**February 20, 21, 22**

7:30 p.m.

IHHS Auditorium  
Pow Wow  
*Phantom of the Opera*

**February 22**

2:00 p.m.

IHHS Auditorium  
Pow Wow  
*Phantom of the Opera*

**April 17-18**

7:30 p.m.

IHHS Auditorium  
Spring Play  
*The Curious Savage*

# Indian Hill High School students 'TAP' into medical field through innovative internships



*Students considering career in medicine work with The Health Collaborative's Healthcare Workforce Innovation Department for real-world experience*

**"The biggest benefit for me is having exclusive time to talk and ask questions with professionals and making connections with them for when I need advice or want to shadow a specific type of doctor."**

**-TAP MD intern Vivek Alamuri**

The learning environment is anything but typical.

From witnessing a live kidney removal surgery to spending time observing a working trauma and emergency care center, Indian Hill High School (IHHS) students traded traditional Braves spirit wear for professional white coats this semester as young medical interns in training. The students are actively practicing medical procedures, visiting health care facilities, and learning from practicing physicians about specific outreach, like Doctors without Borders. This unparalleled high school learning opportunity is the result of collaboration between IHHS and TAP MD, part of The Health Collaborative's Healthcare Workforce Innovation Department.

"I'm really thankful I was accepted into this program as I was very nervous about it at first," said IHHS student and TAP MD intern Vivek Alamuri. "The biggest benefit for me is having exclusive time to talk and ask questions with professionals and making connections with them for when I need advice or want to shadow a specific type of doctor."

Alamuri is one of four IHHS students working as a TAP MD intern this semester. Students apply in the fall of their junior year. The program runs from January of their junior year through December of their senior year. Students participate in an activity and/or shadow experience about once a month during that calendar year.

"I decided to pursue TAP MD as I have a serious interest in having a career in medicine," said IHHS student and TAP MD intern Will Campa. "I have wanted to become a doctor for as long as I can remember. The biggest benefit for me has been being able to interact with medical professionals from multiple specialties and positions. Thanks to this program, I have been fortunate enough to shadow a few of them in the hospital and the operating room, which is not something a lot of high school students can say they've been able to do."

"This is valuable experience to have while in high school," said Nollis Cottrell, Indian Hill High School counselor. "Before going into the program, many students only know about being a physician or a nurse, but there are so many more opportunities about which they can learn. The program gets them excited about a future in health care, or helps them discover a different path."

"I decided to apply to TAP MD because my sister participated in the program and enjoyed it," said IHHS student and TAP MD intern Maggie Jutze. "It actually helped her decide that she didn't want to be a doctor, and she is now pursuing a major in engineering. I knew that TAP MD would be beneficial for me because I am considering medical school and I wanted first-hand experience of what my life would be like as a doctor."

"I'd certainly recommend this program to other students," said Alamuri. "It introduces participants into unseen aspects of healthcare, helps establish connections and actually learn what being a doctor is all about at a deeper level."

The IHHS TAP MD students for this semester include: Vivek Alamuri, Wandrille Bonniol, Will Campa, and Maggie Jutze.





## Indian Hill Exempted Village School District

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[indianhillschools.org](https://indianhillschools.org)

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.



**beBRAVE**

*A Weekly Wrap of News Around the Hill*

September 13 | 2019

**#IH Promise**

**#IH Promise in ACTION**



**GOLD: Indian Hill School District Quality Profile Report**

*Strategic plan advancements during 2018-2019 school year support District vision of enduring excellence*

The strategic plan for transformational excellence - at the Indian Hill School District the work is GOLD: Global Competence, Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness, Learning-Centered Culture, and Dynamic Stakeholder Engagement. Reporting on the advancements within the strategic focus areas the District made during the 2018-2019 school year is the focus for the seventh publication of the Indian Hill Quality Profile report, released September 11.



**DON'T MISS OUT:  
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Stay informed by signing up to receive this weekly electronic District publication highlighting the Indian Hill School District #IHPromise in Action!

**It's News Braves Need!**

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[indianhillschools.org](https://indianhillschools.org)



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[Click here](#) to view a digital copy of the report.