



Promise

Winter/Spring
2020

A Brave Publication

Indian Hill Exempted Village School District



Building a Brave Future – In their own words: Facilities Steering Committee members share thoughts about the assessment process and Board recommendation Page 6-7



The verdict is in on IHHS Mock Trial: They are champions! Page 4



Need financial advice? Ask our elementary students – even the State Superintendent is watching their skills! Page 4



Kindergarten students coding – you better believe it! Page 4



Award-winning art education: CHECK! Page 5



Yale University recognizes IHHS faculty member! Page 4



Student-athletes commit to continuing academic & athletic careers at the next level! Page 4



State of Our Schools

Did you see Portrait of a Brave: Brave Academics? Access the video at the QR code, or visit the District website "About" section (<http://www.indianhillschools.org/About.aspx>)



A message from our **Superintendent**



It's about our students.

From the moment they arrive on our buses, to the time they spend inside our classrooms, in our auditoriums, and on our fields, until the moment we deliver them safely back to you – every decision we make within the Indian Hill School District is centered on our students. We strive to provide each student with unparalleled opportunities that harmonize to compose a world-class education that is uniquely Indian Hill. This is the *Enduring Excellence in Learning, Leadership, Innovation, and Service* that you both deserve and expect.

The time to Build a Brave Future to ensure our exceptional educational services continue is now. This means a commitment to maintaining our programs; this means a commitment to addressing serious and substantial facilities issues.

Detailed in these pages, you will see the process our dedicated community Facilities Steering Committee used to determine options to inform our Board of Education on the best ways to address our facilities. You will hear directly from your neighbors who helped lead this work for our District.

You will see the core of their work centered on one motivation: our students.

At the Indian Hill School District, that's the way we do business each and every day.

In service to our children,

Kirk Koennecke
Kirk.Koennecke@indianhillschools.org

 @ihsuperbrave



The District partnered with Global Network parent volunteers to celebrate Global Cultural Week January 27-31!





A message from Treasurer Mick Davis

Thank you.

That is the message we want to convey to the team of dedicated Indian Hill School District residents who comprised the community-based Finance Steering Committee. For eight months, these individuals worked directly with my team to learn detailed information on school finance, and, as tasked by our Board of Education, they provided a recommendation in January 2020 on how to ensure our District Builds a Brave Future both operationally and with our facilities.

The Finance Committee recommendation was built from guiding principles to optimize financial resources provided by Indian Hill School District taxpayers to benefit students, staff, and community members, and included the following goals: maintain unique programming; maintain student support services; maintain current student/teacher ratios; maintain transportation; and maintain current extra-curricular programs. Additionally, the Finance Committee was dedicated to honoring the work of the District's community-based Facilities Steering Committee.

This was a significant task, and they developed a fiscally conservative recommendation for the Board to consider that addresses the serious and substantial facilities issues we face while also sustaining and maintaining the excellent educational services we provide. It is important to note that no official action has been taken; the Board of Education will consider all findings by both the Finance and the Facilities committees before any decisions are made. We will continue to keep you updated on progress. Should you have any questions regarding our school finances, I encourage you to reach out to me directly.

Thank YOU for your continued support of our District.

Sincerely,

Mick.Davis@indianhillschools.org

Do you have school finance questions? Treasurer Mick Davis has answers!

Welcome to Finance 101, a special video series to answer frequently asked school finance questions. Click on the QR code to hear directly from Mr. Davis, or visit the District website "Finance" section to access all four videos.



Members of the Indian Hill School District community-based Finance Steering Committee presented findings to the Board of Education during the January 14 Board meeting.



Click here to view the Finance Committee presentation to the Board of Education.



Click here to see the Facilities Assessment process on the District website.



Why did homeowner taxes to the Indian Hill School District go down in 2019 for almost all residents?



Why are school updates needed?



Where does our revenue come from?



Why has the District been off the ballot for so long? How does our District's current tax rate compare to other districts within Hamilton County?

Unparalleled Opportunities

ACADEMICS



Indian Hill High School earns two District Mock Trial Championships, the Regional Championship, and heads to state!

Braves brought home two District Championships on the same day during the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) District Mock Trial Tournament in January! In February, Braves won the region, and seven IHHS Mock Trial students are headed to the state competition in March!



Indian Hill Elementary School students dominate in Stock Market Game!

Seven Indian Hill Elementary School teams placed in the top 10 in the city and state as part of the annual Alpaugh Family Economics Center Stock Market Game! Even State Superintendent Paulo DeMaria took time during his visit to Indian Hill Elementary School in the fall to observe this exemplar class.



Indian Hill Primary School and Accenture team up to bring Braves Hour of Code

Kindergarten students *coding*. That was the amazing scene inside the Indian Hill Primary School Media Center as the school teamed with IHPS parent, Terrah Kocher, and Accenture - a company that pledged to complete more than 10,000 Hours of Code and lead coding tutorial sessions around the world during Computer Science Education Week. The IHPS students enjoyed two Hour of Code learning sessions with Accenture volunteers that included both kindergarten and second-grade students.

More than 100 special guests visit IHMS for Hour of Code event!

The population grew by more than 100 Braves at Indian Hill Middle School, as parents and special guests showed up to participate in the annual Hour of Code event!



Indian Hill High School teacher honored with Yale Educator Award

Aaron Debbink was one of 55 teachers selected from 311 nominations Yale University received for the annual Yale Educator Award. The teachers nominated represented 40 states and 23 countries. The former Indian Hill High School student who nominated Debbink was IHHS Class of 2019 graduate Trey Skidmore, a current student at Yale.



Indian Hill High School seniors Jorie Alf, Maddie Antenucci, Morgan Coburn, Hunter Fry, Hayley Hirsch, Ellie Podojil, Ashleigh Prugh, and Liv Riggs committed to continue both their academic and athletic careers during a signing ceremony November 2019 in the IHHS Auditorium.



The Indian Hill Athletic Hall of Fame announced its two newest inductees: Josh Cooper (Class of 1998) and Elizabeth Heinbach (Class of 2012) during a ceremony Friday, January 17, 2020.



Senior Matthew Briedis signed February 5 with Mount St. Joseph University where he will play football and track.

ATHLETICS



Braves Make Headlines

ARTS



Indian Hill High School sophomore named Semi-Finalist in Overture Awards for music!

Congratulations to Indian Hill High School sophomore Kate McGrath who was recently named as a Semi-Finalist in the category of Instrumental Music at this year's Overture Awards!



Indian Hill High School senior named Finalist in Overture Awards for art!

Congratulations to Indian Hill High School senior Olivia Sheldon who was recently named a Finalist in this year's Overture Awards!



Indian Hill students earn 22 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition released regional results, and 15 Indian Hill students earned 22 accolades. Each year, students in grades seven through 12 have the opportunity to showcase their writing and visual art skills in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. Indian Hill High School and Indian Hill Middle School submitted individual works of art in the categories of photography, digital art, painting, and drawing. Five of those works received the Gold Key Award, the highest possible regional recognition; those winners advance to the national competition in New York City. Seven works received Silver Key Awards, and another 10 works received Honorable Mention.



Indian Hill High School Marching Band wins Mid-States Band Association Championship!



Congratulations to Coach Susan Savage as she has been recognized as the 2019 District Track Coach of the Year! We appreciate all you do for our students, Mrs. Savage!



The Braves are CHL champs for the fourth straight year! Swimmers of the Year: Devin Edwards & Will Taylor! Coach Harrison is Coach of the year!



The Braves are back-to-back CHL basketball champs!



State Champion rings!

Congratulations to Indian Hill High School student-athletes Morgan Coburn and Hayley Hirsch on receiving rings after earning the OHSAA Tennis Doubles State Champion trophy October 19, 2019. We are proud of you!

Building a Brave Future

...From the Cover

After a year of extensive review, research, and analyses, the Indian Hill School District's community-based Facilities Steering Committee presented the Board of Education with four options to address needs for school facilities within the Indian Hill School District. The Facilities Steering Committee, a subcommittee of the overarching Facilities Assessment Task Force that began in September 2018, convened regularly through the end of September 2019 to develop the detailed analysis of capital needs at all District school buildings and facilities. The committee chairs presented findings on behalf of the full committee, and agreed and noted that of most critical concern are the needs facing Indian Hill Middle School. In all options presented, the committee recommended replacing Indian Hill Middle School. Additionally, the committee noted that critical needs do not end there, and that the District has done a good job of holding off the need until now through excellent maintenance and upkeep.

It is also important to note that when the District Facilities Steering Committee set their mission and vision for the facilities assessment process, safety and security ranked No. 1 under the committee's considerations. During that process, the committee assessed each building for safety and security. In their recommendation to the Board of Education during the October 2019 meeting, the committee did communicate that as a minimum level of improvement, all buildings needed safety enhancements.

How was the work of the community Facilities Steering Committee defined?



Mission:

Create and present two to four District capital improvement scenarios for the consideration of the Board of Education that provide learning excellence for students and staff.

Vision:

We envision learning environments to enhance opportunities for each student to achieve his/her potential in academics, arts, and athletics.

Proposed District capital improvement scenarios will:

1. allow students and staff to thrive in safe, supportive, and collaborative learning environments;
2. incorporate best practices in K-12 learning environments while providing flexibility to adapt to future needs; and
3. optimize financial resources provided by our taxpayers to benefit students, staff, and community members.

Considerations:

- Safety & Security
- Learning Environments (current & future)
- Accessibility
- Infrastructure & Energy

What was the recommendation of the community Facilities Steering Committee?



Click here on the QR code to see the Facilities Steering Committee report to the Board of Education.

What do members of the Facilities Steering Committee have to say about the process and recommendation?

Click the QR Code to see Facilities Steering Committee interviews.



Shelli Wineland
Facilities Steering Committee



"The thing that I appreciated the most is that we started with the student at the core. So, it's not about what we think or what we want, it's about what the students need to thrive and continue for Indian Hill to be the best-in-class school in the country.

"I'm excited that the recommendation will keep Indian Hill where it is; we are rated as one of the top schools in the country, and how do you do that? You have to stay in front not only in what we're teaching, but also it's the environment in which the kids learn and grow."

"The committee had a pretty wide range of people. There were some people from the school district itself on the committee, members of the community who don't have students, and people like me who do.

"There's no question we have a fantastic educational program here and fantastic school district, but we were interested in seeing what we can do to the facilities to make them improved and strengthened over the years."



Bear Tullis
Facilities Steering Committee

"There are routine maintenance upgrades that need to take place over the next 10 years; we will be funding those, one way or the other. If we do not address them in this situation they will continue to come out of operating funds, and we need to address that as a community.

"I love this school system, I love the kids, and I love the community that exists here, and so I think it's very important that we - as a community - continue to make this an environment for our students to feel safe and to learn and to grow and to become the citizens that we want them to become."

Monique Sewell
Facilities Steering Committee



2020 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Generally, regular meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Indian Hill High School, 6865 Drake Road, Indian Hill, Ohio 45243. The Board may establish a time prior to the 7:00 p.m. public session to hold committee meetings and/or executive sessions. The public will be notified of the starting time of any such session upon release of the agenda.



The remaining dates are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| March 3, 2020 | September 15, 2020 |
| April 7, 2020 | October 13, 2020 |
| May 19, 2020 | November 24, 2020 |
| June 23, 2020 | December 8, 2020 |
| August 4, 2020 | |



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.

22nd Annual
*Every Child is
Noteworthy*

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Please join us for a morning of breakfast and music. You are invited! Breakfast includes a fantastic pancake bar, potatoes, turkey sausage, and smoothies. In addition to delicious dining, participants can enjoy live music as the award-winning Indian Hill Middle and Indian Hill High School bands and orchestras entertain with a rousing array of classical, contemporary, rock, and folk music. Money raised helps pay for instruments, equipment, repairs, guest music educators, and educational opportunities for students.

Saturday, March 7

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Indian Hill Middle School
Cafeteria and Gymnasium
6845 Drake Road



Cost:
at the door
\$10/person
\$40/family
Everyone welcome!



Conquer the Hill!

Registration is now open for the 8:00 a.m. Saturday, April 25 Conquer the Hill 5K race and walk! Registration is free for students 10 and under and paid registration before March 31 includes a free shirt! Register here by clicking on the QR code!

DON'T MISS OUT: beBRAVE

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!

Click the QR code to sign up and select IH District:



or visit our District website
indianhillschools.org

