



"The Quote"

web: www.westirondequoit.org

May 2021

Special District Budget Edition

Quick Facts:

\$0.21 Estimated Tax Rate increase per \$1,000 assessed value

2.67% Budget Increase

0.72% Tax Levy Increase, within allowable tax cap

A message from Board of Education President, David Long, and Superintendent, Aaron Johnson

This year has been one like no other. But thanks to our staff, families and community, we persevered and given the circumstances created the best opportunities and supports for every student. The experience was not perfect and was certainly not "normal," but thanks to a concerted, collaborative effort, we rallied. This spirit and devotion to our children is why families seek West Irondequoit to live and learn and why we all share such pride in our community.

Thank you for being such an integral part of that equation.

Our Board of Education and staff have conducted a thorough process to develop the proposed 2021-22 school budget. Our schools deliver a comprehensive and robust educational experience aimed at developing the whole child. This experience attends to every child's unique academic interest and needs in addition to developing their social, emotional and mental wellness. The objective is for all children to have an inclusive and equitable path of self-discovery that leads to a well-rounded and confident graduate. Sustaining a viable and long-range fiscal plan is paramount in supporting this, and thanks to the input of many, we feel this year's plan does just that.

Within the 2021-22 school budget, there are a few critical points to note. Thanks to years of advocacy by the school board, teachers' and administrators' unions and the community, New York State plans to fully fund Foundation Aid, which is the most significant portion



Stephen Patchett and Katie Taberski were two of the main characters in the IHS musical, "Bright Star," in March.

of the NYS school aid we receive annually. This aid has been frozen for the past two years. Before that and dating back to 2008, NYS has significantly underfunded the Foundation Aid as calculated. NYS has indicated that school districts will incrementally receive a more significant portion of Foundation Aid over the next three years until fully funded. As we have experienced in the past, although NYS makes commitments to action, they are subject to change. With next year's increase in Foundation Aid funding, we are reducing our tax levy increase to one half of the allowable limit.

We recommend taking a calculated approach until we know that NYS will move to fund the Foundation Aid formula fully. Also worth noting: Every school district will receive direct Federal Stimulus funding that must be spent in the next three years. For us, this is approximately \$8.5 million. This Federal funding cannot be used to supplement a district's annual school budget. Instead, there are specific pandemic-related criteria that expenditures must be tied to, such as academic

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BUDGET VOTE DETAILS

- **WHEN:** Tuesday, May 18 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **WHERE:** St. Paul Blvd. Fire Department
- **COVID-19:** Please follow all safety protocols

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue	2020-21	2021-22 (estimate)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Local Property Tax	40,978,320	41,273,363	295,043	0.72%	53.29%
Foundation Aid	16,312,295	19,633,855	3,321,560	20.36%	25.35%
Expense Driven Aid	7,068,702	7,484,206	415,504	5.88%	9.66%
Building Aid	3,433,212	3,069,208	(364,004)	-10.60%	3.96%
Sales Tax	2,800,000	3,600,000	800,000	28.57%	4.65%
Misc. Revenues	1,399,516	1,300,827	(98,689)	-7.05%	1.68%
Interfund Transfer	120,000	120,000	-	0.00%	0.15%
Fund Balance	2,666,300	971,306	(1,694,994)	-63.57%	1.25%
Reserve: Unemployment	30,000	-	(30,000)	-100.00%	0.00%
Reserve: Worker's Comp	43,444	-	(43,444)	-100.00%	0.00%
Reserve: Retirement	588,263	-	(588,263)	-100.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	\$75,440,052	\$77,452,765	\$2,012,713	2.67%	100%

Expenses	2020-21	2021-22 (proposed)	\$ Change	% Change	% of Budget
Central Services	\$2,687,479	\$2,756,769	\$69,290	2.58%	3.56%
Operations and Maintenance	\$7,262,037	\$7,419,816	\$157,779	2.17%	9.58%
Curriculum and Supervision	\$2,826,729	\$2,879,376	\$52,647	1.86%	3.72%
Instruction and Student Programs	\$36,567,985	\$37,319,797	\$751,812	2.06%	48.18%
Fuel and Contract Transportation	\$3,117,090	\$3,188,572	\$71,482	2.29%	4.12%
Debt Service (Mortgage)	\$2,709,125	\$2,971,733	\$262,608	9.69%	3.84%
Employee Benefits (Health, Retirement, FICA, Disability)	\$20,009,607	\$20,526,702	\$517,095	2.58%	26.50%
Interfund Transfers	\$260,000	\$390,000	\$130,000	50.00%	0.50%
TOTAL	\$75,440,052	\$77,452,765	\$2,012,713	2.67%	100.0%

Proposed Tax Levy Increase: 0.72%

Projected Tax Levy \$41,273,363

Projected Rate per \$1000 Assessed Value \$28.41

Based on a \$100,000 Assessed Home Value

Monthly Increase - No STAR \$1.75


Annual Increase - No STAR \$21.00

STAR Savings

Basic \$803

Enhanced \$1,789

Need to Know: What if the district budget is not approved by voters?

A simple majority vote is required for the proposed budget to be approved, as the proposal meets the acceptable tax levy threshold for West Irondequoit with a 0.72% tax levy increase. The Board of Education could propose one more budget for voter approval, or it could elect to adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget cannot contain a tax levy that is greater than the levy of the previous year. 

ON THE COVER

Pictured performing during "Bright Star," the Irondequoit High School musical in March, are junior Stephen Patchett, left, and senior Katie Taberski. The photograph was taken by IHS teacher, Mr. Dave Marshall. One of their castmates, senior Ben Nelson, described the musical's plot like this: "It's a story of miracles and dire situations ... about persevering and finding hope." With all that has transpired in the past 14 months, we thought this picture was fitting for our cover of "The Quote." To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, the musical welcomed a limited live audience for two nights at the IHS auditorium. Each performance was live-streamed online, too.

- Jeff DiVeronica, Director of Public Information, Editor, 'The Quote'

Proposed Expenditures

TOTAL BUDGET = \$77,452,765

Administrative Component
\$8,933,065 = 11.5% of Budget

Provides general support and management for the District

- Board of Education and Superintendent's Office
- Finance, Personnel and Public Information
- Technology infrastructure
- Legal services and liability insurance
- Auditing services
- Curriculum development
- Supervision of the schools by principals and assistant principals

Capital Component
\$10,857,773 = 14% of Budget

Maintaining the infrastructure and facilities for the District

- Upkeep of 134 acres of District property
- Maintenance of 10 schools and 7 additional buildings
- Utility bills (natural gas, electric, fuel, telephone)
- Refund of property tax claims
- Principal and interest payments on District debt for previous capital improvements

Program Component
\$57,661,927 = 74.5% of Budget

Provides instruction and support services to schools

- General education faculty and staff
- Special education faculty and staff
- Co-curricular and extra-curricular programs
- Transportation
- Health services
- Guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists
- School supplies, textbooks, library books, software, instructional computers

BUDGET DETAILS

Budget information is on our website, www.westirondequoit.org. Look for the "May 18, 2021 Budget and Board of Education Vote Information" box on the main page. For more information, call (585) 342-5500.

Tax Levy

The amount of money needed to balance the budget between expenditures and all other revenue. It is the total amount of revenue raised through property taxes.

Vote Date, Location and Parking

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, from 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
St. Paul Blvd. Fire Department
433 Cooper Road

This location provides residents with convenient and extensive parking. The firehouse is universally accessible. If you require handicapped parking or any form of assistance, please speak to one of our security workers.

The Board of Elections no longer provides mechanical voting machines. We will use paper ballots and the new optical scanners you have used for other government elections.

School officials will ask all voters to follow COVID-19 safety protocols, including wearing face coverings over their mouth and nose. [☞](#)



Board of Education Candidates

Five candidates are running for three seats on the Board of Education. The seven-member board is made up of community volunteers who serve three-year terms. All candidate biographical information appears in *The Quote* as it was submitted by each candidate. Names will appear on the ballot in the following order as drawn by lottery.



Candidates, left to right, are:

- Bruce Casler
- Rosa Vargas-Cronin
- Matthew Metras
- Diane White
- Justin Connor

Bruce Casler

224 Seville Dr. • 585-259-4196 • bcasler@hotmail.com

Age: 62

Family:

Wife – Patricia; WI Grad
Son – Aaron; former WI student and WI Victim
Daughters – Elizabeth Stankus and Margaret Casler; WI Graduates
Adoptive Son – Destin Casler; former WI student and WI victim

Occupation:

Computer Systems Engineer

Education:

Tully Central School (go Black Knights)
Brockport State, multiple computer engineer certifications

Community Involvement:

- Coached girls soccer, Coached boys CYU basketball

- Marched with citizens action to protest School to Jail Pipeline
- Advocated with NY State PTA for school justice system reforms

Candidate Statement:

“For the past 28 years, I have worked as a Senior Systems Engineer in a highly technical trade. This has required me to undergo continual learning and testing to maintain relevant knowledge. I work with the highest levels of management in my company on current and proposed projects as well as budgeting. In my personal life, I strive to assist those around me whenever I can. Whether it is going out of my way to help move a disabled car out of traffic, or reaching out to a stranger in need, I consistently find myself trying to reach out and help my neighbors as well as those I don’t know. That need to help is why I am running. In my work and in my personal life, I am a problem solver, I see some major deficiencies in the district’s practices that violate students’ and parents’ rights and create a barrier to effective partnership between district workers, the school employees and the public. I have a plan to address those issues, raise standards and strive for fair taxation.”

Rosa Vargas-Cronin

772 Winona Blvd. • 585-435-2367 • rosavargascronin@gmail.com

Age: 41

Family:

Husband – Ken Cronin; Occupational Therapist serving patients in Irondequoit
Son – Gael, 7th grade, Dake Jr. High School
Daughter – Raquel, 4th grade, Rogers Middle School

Occupation:

Bilingual Speech and Language Pathologist

Education:

Masters of Science in Speech and Language Pathology
Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disorders (TSSLD)
Bilingual Education Assessment (BEA) Certification

Community Involvement:

- West Irondequoit Central PTSA, member
- Irondequoit Public Library Board of Trustee, member (2018-2023)
- Irondequoit Commission Advancing Racial Equity (ICARE), work group member
- Winona Woods Neighborhood Association, member
- Irondequoit Facebook Group, member

- Eliminating Racism and Seeking Equity (ERASE) in Irondequoit, member (Term 2020-Feb. 2021)
- Helmer Nature Center, member

Candidate Statement:

“Running for West Irondequoit School Board is fueled by my passion for education and commitment as a parent and resident. Growing up an English Language Learner, my kindergarten teacher made me feel welcomed and ignited my love for learning. In my first job as an elementary school counselor, I was a positive role model for those students but they inspired me more than they could ever know. Today, I have over 20 years’ experience as a special educator and bilingual speech and language pathologist. As a board member, I will be a representative of and advocate for the increasingly diverse student body. I am committed to moving our schools to pre-pandemic effectiveness and continue improving technology. My top priorities are the social emotional state of our students and school communities; ensuring students with special needs and their caregivers are heard; and that communication between the board and town is open and consistent. I will do this all with fiscal responsibility and focus on our budget. Together, we can build on the foundation of our district.”

Matthew Metras

2567 Oakview Drive • 585-967-1710 • mattmetras@gmail.com

Age: 40

Family:

Spouse - Jessica

Son - Jack (9), 3rd Grade at Listwood

Occupation:

Owner / Enrolled Agent, MDM Financial Services

Education:

Bishop Kearney High School

RIT School of Film and Animation

Community Involvement:

- Vice-President, West Irondequoit Board of Education
- Co-Chair, Monroe County School Boards Association Legislative Committee
- Committee Member: WI Social Emotional Learning Committee, West Irondequoit Foundation, MCSBA Steering Committee, MCSBA Nominating Committee, WI Teacher Learning Center Steering, WI PTSA, WI Health and Safety, WI Audit Committee, School Re-Opening

- Sub-Committee, Listwood School Penny Carnival Planning Committee
- Current or Former Building Liaison: Brookview, Seneca, IHS, Briarwood, Colebrook

Candidate Statement:

“As a current board member, I have worked to maintain our district as a top-notch learning environment. This year has been one of the most challenging a school district has ever encountered, between a global pandemic, a funding crisis, and the opportunity to do better in areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. There are no right answers in the pandemic, but through careful, deliberate planning, our district has become a hybrid learning model others want to emulate. Supporting our students and staff is critical. Facing budget cuts, I worked extensively to build and develop relationships with our state elected officials and successfully advocated for additional funding, resulting in the full implementation of the Foundation Aid Formula. When it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion, our work has started and will continue forward in this necessary endeavor. Looking ahead, I am excited to be part of the current Strategic Planning process. I have been proud to serve our community these past three years and would be honored to serve you again for the next three.”

Diane White

873 Washington Ave. • 585-317-8952 • dfwhite2005@gmail.com

Age: 58

Family:

Husband - Adam Bonacci

Daughter - Sophia Bonacci, attends IHS

Occupation:

Sr. Account Executive for Ring Central - Education Vertical

Education:

BS, RIT, Criminal Justice

JD Pace Law School

Graduate of Irondequoit High School

Community Involvement:

- President of Summerville, White City, Windsor & Beiry Beach Residence Association, Inc.
- Member of Holy Cross Church
- Girl Scout Leader - West Irondequoit since 2014

Candidate Statement:

“As a former graduate of West Irondequoit School District, and parent of a current student in the District, I want to use my knowledge and skills I’ve obtained in technology and communications for Education, to help the District to become one of the premier school districts of New York State. Having one of the highest school taxes in NYS, our District should be ranked similarly to the following districts in our area: Pittsford (16th), Brighton (13th), Penfield (34th). However, according to Niche.com, we are **ranked 75th!** This is simply **not acceptable**, and we need to do better. Indeed, with the rising costs of college, and college being more competitive than ever, the rankings of our schools, ex. Irondequoit High School (185th) in NYS, with an overall score of 88.7, according to US News, demonstrates that we are not properly preparing our students to succeed. I promise to make the District more accountable in raising the academic standards of what is acceptable, provide more academic opportunities, proper counseling and support for students, improve technology tools available to faculty and students, increase sports opportunities for girls to equal the boys, and provide advocacy for students and parents to hold the District accountable in meeting their expectations.”

Justin Connor

160 Valley View Crescent • 585-509-7679 • j3bconnor@gmail.com

Age: 48

Family:

Wife - Jeanine; married nearly 27 years; St. Kateri School counselor and has own private practice (marriage, family, individual therapy)

Son - Justin Riley Connor, 11th grade, Irondequoit HS

Son - Bailey Benjamin Connor, 8th grade, Dake Jr. HS

Occupation:

Physical Therapist, Clinical Manager, RRHS; PT/OT/ST in Irondequoit

Education:

Irondequoit High School Class of 1990

BS, Physical Therapy, University at Buffalo (1994)

Community Involvement:

- Travel Soccer Coach for the last 8 years, Irondequoit Soccer Club

- Irondequoit Soccer Club President for the last 5 years
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha Pre-Cana Team for 10 years

Candidate Statement:

“I am proud to call myself a product of the West Irondequoit Central School District. My wife and I both graduated from IHS in 1990. After college, we moved to California, where I worked as a Physical Therapist and my wife attended graduate school and started her career in Counseling. After my oldest son was born, we returned to Irondequoit because we could think of no other place we wanted to raise our family. The welcoming community of Irondequoit and the high quality education provided here was what we wanted for our children. I have spent 8 years coaching for the Irondequoit Soccer Club and 5 years as the President of the Irondequoit Soccer Club. I have worked for Rochester Regional Health as a Physical Therapist in Irondequoit since 2005, providing care and improving the health of the Irondequoit community. I would love to have the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the district to provide the exceptional educational experience to the youth of West Irondequoit.”

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 75,440,052	\$ 77,452,765	\$ 77,157,722										
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 2,012,713	\$ 1,717,670										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.67%	2.28%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 40,978,320	\$ 41,273,363											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 40,978,320	\$ 41,273,363	\$ 40,978,320										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 40,978,320	\$ 41,568,693											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 40,978,320	\$ 41,273,363											
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 295,330											
Administrative Component	\$ 8,833,398	\$ 8,933,065	\$ 9,034,288										
Program Component	\$ 56,325,318	\$ 57,661,927	\$ 57,440,785										
Capital Component	\$ 10,281,336	\$ 10,857,773	\$ 10,680,649										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>Contingent budget will be developed utilizing a zero tax levy increase and elimination of any contingent expenses.</p>													
<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NONE</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	NONE	\$		\$		\$		\$
Description	Amount												
NONE	\$												
	\$												
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	\$												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
	\$ 803

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the West Irondequoit school district, Monroe County, New York, will be held at St Paul Fire Department in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

2021-22 Budget Objectives

Development of the 2021-22 West Irondequoit CSD budget centered on the following objectives:

- **Balance enrollment changes at grade levels to maintain class sizes**
- **Continue to follow Special Education Mandates**
- **Align our curriculum and instruction resources as stated in the Instructional Blueprint.**
- **Restore 2020-21 budget reductions enacted when state aid was reduced.**
- **Maintain a sustainable 5-Year Financial Plan while staying within the Tax Levy Cap.**

The economic impact of the pandemic on New York State brought significant uncertainty to our current year's budget as state aid was frozen and there were risks of a mid-year reduction. However, with the recent Federal Stimulus funds providing support to state/local governments as well as schools, we are more hopeful about state aid funding in the near future.

Our budget includes a projected increase of more than \$3 million in Foundation Aid moving us closer to the amount we were promised to receive under its formula. As a result, we are able to propose a budget with a 0.72% tax levy increase; one that is half of our allowable limit (tax cap) while at the same time reducing our reliance on savings to balance the budget and avoid any reductions in our programs. Future considerations regarding the tax levy will be dependent on New York State's promise to fully-fund Foundation Aid by 2023-24. Because the budget's levy increase is less than the levy cap, it requires a simple majority for passage.

The budget includes \$100,000 for a Capital Outlay Exclusion Project (COEP) to replace and to modernize the fire system panel and sprinkler heads at Seneca Elementary School. The proposed project is focused on the health and safety of the building. The panel's replacement will ensure that the specific equipment is compatible with current software controls and the sprinkler head replacement will ensure they are in good working order, if ever needed. We will receive more than \$80,000 in state aid on this project, for the following budget year.

Information is also available at www.westirondequoit.org or by calling (585) 336-3067. 

Message *continued from cover*

gap closure, social, emotional, and mental health supports, COVID-related supplies and materials, and others. We are currently working with students, families and staff to determine how to apply this funding to best support our students in its intended way.

Thank you for making West Irondequoit a special place and for your role in promoting our students' success. People make the difference, and in our District, our people share one critical value: Our children.

Respectfully and in partnership,

David Long, Board of Education President
Aaron R. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools



Mr. David Long



Dr. Aaron Johnson



The IHS girls volleyball team solicited donations and raised \$3,500 for the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester in early April.

Community Service

Generosity by our students happens year-round and helps them become part of the fabric of West Irondequoit. Here's a small snapshot:

- IHS Student Council reps wrote hundreds of letters to local senior citizens over the holidays and this spring; the holidays also saw 30 gifts given to children at the Charles Settlement House.
- Dake students donated food, cleaning supplies, toothbrushes and toothpaste, etc. to the Center for Youth during January's Kindness Challenge.
- The IHS DECA Club raked leaves at Sunset House last fall and when our first big snowfall hit many of them shoveled driveways for elderly residents.
- Tri-M Music Honor Society students spent a November morning baking more than a dozen lasagnas for the Open Door Mission.
- Students from multiple buildings held drives to donate hundreds of pounds of food to the Irondequoit Community Cupboard.
- IHS sophomores donated toys and clothing to Willow Center, which helps people impacted by domestic violence.

West Irondequoit Schools Are Community Schools!

Opportunities to Swim in the Irondequoit HS pool!

The eight-lane pool at Irondequoit High School reopened to the public earlier this year following months of being closed due to COVID-19. Please follow all current safety regulations as it pertains to the pandemic, including face coverings when you're not in the pool. You may enter at Door No. 5 (back of IHS). Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we are not currently offering family swim. We offer lap swim at various times (see below):

- Morning: Monday-Friday, 6-7:30 a.m.
- Evening: Monday-Thursday, 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
- Weekend: Saturday/Sunday, noon-2 p.m.

Lap swim is available for adults 18 and older. The cost is \$4 per visit. There is a 30-visit pass with no expiration date for \$105. For more information, including details on private lessons or programs for children, call (585) 336-3014 or visit bit.ly/CommunityEd_WI.

Fitness Center

Also due to COVID-19, the IHS Fitness Center is not currently available. Please check http://bit.ly/IHS_Fitness for updated information.

K-6 Extension Program

West Irondequoit's K-6 Extension Program is part of our Community Education program. It provides before and after school care for our students in kindergarten through sixth grade. It is designed to provide students with professional and nurturing care in an educational setting with age-appropriate activities, academic enrichment opportunities and recreation.

- Locations: Rogers Middle School, 219 Northfield Road; Iroquois MS, 150 Colebrook Dr.
- Hours: Mornings - 7 a.m. until the start of school; afternoons - dismissal time until 6 p.m.

Registration for the 2021-22 school year begins June 1st. Packets are available at the District Office, Community Education Office at Irondequoit High School or via the District website. For cost, please call (585) 336-3014 or view on our website by clicking on Parents/Community, Community Education and K-6 Extension Program.



For a complete list of aquatic programs, visit <http://bit.ly/WICSDaquatics> or call the Aquatic Office at (585) 336-0621.

Student Achievement Data

Information regarding the New York State Report Card containing Profile, Assessment and Accountability Data is available at <http://bit.ly/2pLb2ve>

A link to this document is provided on our website at www.westirondequoit.org. Click on District, then on NYS District Report Card. A hard copy of the report is available from the District Office, 321 List Ave., (585) 336-3067. Contact the office via email at public_info@westiron.monroe.edu.

Child Abuse Hotline

The NYS Office of Child and Family Services operates a toll-free telephone number to receive reports of child abuse or neglect; call (800) 342-3720. Its website is: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main>

**WEST IRONDEQUOIT HONORED
NATIONALLY FOR 14TH STRAIGHT
YEAR FOR MUSIC EDUCATION**



All-Access: Stay Connected with West Irondequoit schools!

We have various communication platforms to help you stay connected with our schools. From the latest updates to videos and photo galleries, we are active on Facebook and Twitter to show you what is happening in our buildings and beyond. Our YouTube channel has more than 425 videos and our updated Transportation Page now allows you to do more digitally. Please visit the District website - www.westirondequoit.org - for the latest news. For more details, please read below.

Receive/submit transportation details online!

Parents/guardians can now submit ALL transportation forms/applications on our District site or print them from there. Find the TRANSPORTATION "Quick Link" on the main page. Families must have an Infinite Campus account (see below) to obtain transportation information, such as bus passes, route times and bus numbers. Those items are no longer mailed home.

Infinite Campus Parent/Student Portal

Infinite Campus is our student management system. Parents/guardians of all students can create an account that allows them to view schedules, attendance, report cards and teacher/transportation information. High school and junior-high students have accounts to view their own information. Login credentials are available from school main offices; parents must present ID to obtain them. If you registered in a previous year, your account stays active, and only one account is necessary for families with multiple children enrolled.

Broadcast Call System

Our Blackboard Mass Notification system allows us to contact families via phone/email/text message when we need to communicate information immediately. Phone numbers are pulled from Infinite Campus using a secure system. Be sure that your child's school secretary has your most up-to-date phone and email information. The system will leave a voicemail message if you do not answer the call.

The Safe School Helpline

Let us know ANONYMOUSLY when you become aware of anything that threatens the safety of our schools. Anyone can call: Parents, Students, Staff




- Call: 800-4-1-VOICE ext. 359 / 800-418-6423 ext. 359
- Text: 66746, then type TIPS
- Website: safeschoolhelpline.com
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/safeschoolhelpline](https://www.facebook.com/safeschoolhelpline)

Check out their free mobile app (Apple or Android). Break the Silence...Prevent the Event.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Connect on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

Follow our **DISTRICT** on:

-  West Irondequoit CSD
-  @WestIrondequoit
-  West Irondequoit CSD



Follow **IRONDEQUOIT HIGH SCHOOL** on:

-  @IrondequoitHS
-  Irondequoit HS Art



Follow **DAKE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL** on:

-  Dake Junior High School



Follow **ATHLETICS** on:

-  WIEagles

Follow **HELMER NATURE CENTER** on:

-  Helmer Nature Center
-  HelmerNature_WI


Follow the **WEST IRONDEQUOIT FOUNDATION** on:

-  West Irondequoit Foundation
-  WIFoundation

Follow the **WEST IRONDEQUOIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** on:

-  IHS Alumni

Non-Discrimination Notice

The West Irondequoit Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, political affiliation, familial status, military status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status, arrest or conviction record (except as permitted by law), genetic information or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or federal non-discrimination laws in its programs and activities. In addition, it provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated patriotic youth groups. 

West Irondequoit Schools

Welcome. Nurture. Inspire.



BY THE NUMBERS

- 8** Of our 10 schools earned Five-Star status from *Buffalo Business First* magazine
- 93** Graduation rate percentage of Irondequoit High School Class of 2020
- 96** Percentage of 2020 graduates who earned Regents diplomas (68% earned Advanced Regents diplomas)
- 85** Percentage of 2020 graduates who accessed college coursework at IHS
- 5** Where Briarwood School is ranked by *Buffalo Business First* magazine among 162 elementary schools
- 21** Advanced Placement Courses offered
- 40** New York State Seal of Biliteracy recipients in 2019-20
- 14** Straight years named one of “Best Communities for Music Education in America” (20 of 22 years)
- 13** Consecutive years IHS has been a WISE Blue-Star High School for Student Financial Literacy
- 8** Consecutive years IHS has been a WISE National Top 100 school for Financial Literacy
- 4** World Languages offered: French, German, Italian, Spanish (and Japanese as a 2020-21 elective)
- 2,472** National ranking for IHS by *Newsweek* for top STEM schools among 30,000 (puts IHS in top 8.2%)
- 2,005** Rank among 17,792 nationally by *U.S. News and World Report*
- 24** Number of IHS students who qualified for DECA’s 2021 NYS Career Development Virtual competition
- 185** Rank among 1,217 schools in New York State by *U.S. News & World Report*
- 1.85** 10-year average Tax Levy Increase (2012-13 to 2021-22)

ACHIEVING PEAK PERFORMANCE

- ◆ **Comprehensive education:** We offer one of the area’s most comprehensive high schools with programs in art, building trades, business, music, performing arts, technology and vocational automotive.
- ◆ **Neighborhood schools:** Average enrollment of 189 among our six K-3 schools.
- ◆ **Career Connections Program:** Helps students thrive in work-study jobs, internships & career shadowing.
- ◆ **Fine art:** Offer 16 courses in art; students regularly have work displayed in local exhibits.
- ◆ **Performing arts:** Traditionally 4 major dramatic presentations annually by IHS and Dake Jr. High students.
- ◆ **1:1 technology:** Laptop computers for grades K-12, a first, for the 2020-21 school year.
- ◆ **Professional development:** For 35-plus years we have provided a teacher learning center.
- ◆ **Athletics:** Varsity teams in 26 sports; Section V titles in girls volleyball for the past three seasons.
- ◆ **Unified Sports:** Inclusive co-ed basketball/bowling teams that unite students with and without disabilities.
- ◆ **Helmer Nature Center:** Our District-owned 45-acre “outdoor classroom” teaches environmental awareness to our students and is a widely used community asset offering exposure to woods and wetlands.
- ◆ **West Irondequoit Foundation:** Has awarded more than \$966,431 in grants to the District for educational programs and equipment.

West Irondequoit CSD 2021-22 School Calendar



Faculty Orientation/Supt. Workshop Day



First Day for Students



Holiday/Recess



Local/Regents Exams



Regents Rating Day



Conference Day

July

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

December

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

February

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

May

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

June

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Sept. 1-2	Conference Day
Sept. 3	Faculty Orientation/Supt. Workshop Day
Sept. 6	Labor Day – No School
Sept. 7	School Opens – Grades K-12
Oct. 8	K-12 Conference Day - No School K-12
Oct. 11	Columbus Day – No School
Nov. 11	Veterans Day – No School
Nov. 12	Gr. K-4 Full Day Conference – No School K-4
Nov. 24-26	Thanksgiving Recess – No School
Dec. 24-31	Holiday Recess – No School
Jan. 3	School Resumes
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King Day – No School
Jan. 25-28	IHS Local/Regents Exams
Feb. 21-25	Winter Recess – No School
Mar. 18	K-12 Conference Day – No School K-12
Apr. 14	Gr. K-4 Half-Day -Parent-Teacher Conf. Day
Apr 15	Friday Holiday – No School
Apr. 18-22	Spring Recess – No School
May 30	Memorial Day Recess – No School
June 15-23	Local/Regents Exams
June 20	Observe Juneteenth
June 22	Last Day of School for Grades K-6
June 24	Students/Faculty
June 25	Graduation - TENTATIVE

Faculty Days 187 Student Days 182

Approved by the Board of Education: 03-18-2021



Superintendent
Dr. Aaron R. Johnson

Board of Education
Mr. David Long, President
Mr. Matthew Metras, Vice President
Mrs. Ann Cunningham
Mr. Matthew Fink
Dr. Meg Steckley
Mr. Matthew Sullivan
Mr. John Vay
Mrs. Patricia Kelly, District Clerk
Ms. Grace Loeser, Student Representative
Mr. Ethan Riester, Student Representative
Ms. Claire Steckley, Student Representative

Newsletter Editor
Mr. Jeffrey DiVeronica

DISTRICT VOTE: MAY 18 at St. Paul Blvd. Fire Department

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen; you have lived in the West Irondequoit School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote; you are at least 18 years of age by the day of the vote.

The West Irondequoit Board of Education requires proof of residency at the polls. Examples include a driver's license or other documentation proving residence in West Irondequoit.

COVID-19 REMINDERS

Anyone who enters the St. Paul Blvd. Fire Dept. on May 18 will be required to wear a face covering over the mouth and nose. Sanitizer will be made available. We appreciate your cooperation as we follow safety protocols, including social distancing.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

West Irondequoit residents, who qualify, can vote on the annual budget and board election by absentee ballot. Residents unable to vote in person because of disabilities, illness, travel or other valid reasons listed under election law, may request an application for an absentee ballot in person weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from District Clerk Patricia Kelly, District Office, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617. The application is also available on the district website at www.westirondequoit.org. Completed applications must be received in the district clerk's office at least 7 days before the vote (May 11) if ballot is to be mailed, or by 4:30 p.m. the day prior to the vote (May 17) if ballot is to be delivered in person. Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 18. 🗳️



WICSD Photographers: The Camera Loves Them

A dozen Irondequoit High School students were honored by having their photographic work as part of the annual Image City Photography Gallery show called, "Through the Student Lens." The event lasted from March 23 through April 18 at the gallery, located at 722 University Avenue in Rochester. You can see the work online. Just Google: Image City Photo Gallery.

All 12 IHS students had their work displayed, but one had hers highlighted. That was senior Selena Eyob. She is pictured above at right with classmate, Imelda Kirui, the model for the photo.

Other talented IHS artists whose work was on display: Oliver Butler, McKenna Callari, Justin Connor, Natalie Keller, Nicole Lamberson, Ava Langton, Anthony Lippolis, Kalan McLaughlin, Megan Patterson, Andrew Peden, and Candace Tytler. 🗳️