

May 2024 Wykon Monthly

Seniors Honored at Scholarship Ceremony

On Wednesday, May 8, a ceremony was held recognizing all of the 2024 West Iron County High School senior scholarship recipients.

In total, West Iron County seniors were awarded \$846,162. Our community alone provided \$547,850 of that amount. This was due to the efforts of the Foundation for Educational Opportunities at West Iron County Schools, the West Iron County High School Scholarship Committee, local organizations, and donors to the West Iron County School District.

These organizations have made our seniors' future a priority. Their hard work has given West Iron County seniors the moral and monetary support to pursue their career aspirations. As the 2024 West Iron County seniors prepare for graduation and their next step in life, the whole community wishes them success with their future endeavors.



Quiz Bowl Impresses at Nationals

Congratulations to our high school Quiz Bowl team for taking 4th in the nation in Chicago at the end of April. There were 88 teams from New York to Texas to the California area.

Senior RACHEL FANOUS ranked #1 for most questions answered!



Our school also took 1st place for being a Very Small School at Nationals and accumulating more points than any other small school.

We were also the only team to keep the #1 ranked team from New York to under 500 points.

Bioathlon Champions!

Congratulations to the West Iron Biology Team for taking 1st place on Friday, May 10, at the Michigan Tech Bioathlon.

APRIL CLARK, GRACYN MELSTROM, KAYLEE ROSENGREN & LAUREL JOHNSON each received \$100, a T-shirt, pizza, and donuts.

Pictured with the girls is our science teacher, Mr. VanLanen.



Quartet Takes the Stage

On May 4th, Mrs. Carr's quartet traveled to the University of Green Bay, WI, and performed their pieces for a judge. They were judged on tone, intonation, balance, technique and expression.

Congratulations, girls, on earning a First Division Rating at State Solo and Ensemble!

AUBREY BICE, GRAYSON MELSTROM, KAILEY HALL, & CHLOE THUNANDER



May 2024 Current Events

Thank You for Your Years...

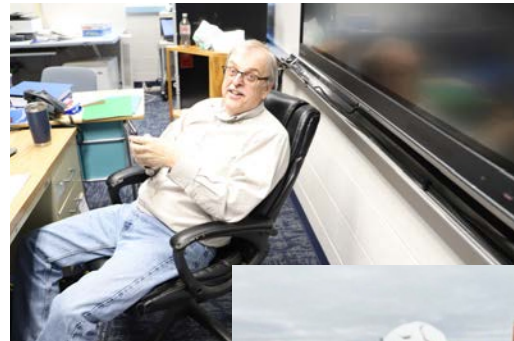
We'd like to congratulate Mr. Barry and Mr. Soha on their retirement and all the great contributions they have provided and accomplishments they have achieved here at WICHS.

During Mr. Barry's years here, he has served as an advisor for the Freshman Class, Student Council, and Business Professionals of America. He has also been a driver's education instructor.

Outside of school, he enjoys being the PN Chair of WICEA negotiating team, many outdoor activities, hunting or just taking a quiet ride on the side-by-side enjoying the scenery. Mr. Barry enjoys the time he spends with his children, Brittanie and Marc, and grandchildren, especially those days at camp.

Mr. Soha has made his mark here in the math classroom and with the football program. He leaves us with these parting words:

"As I leave the math class at WIC, I will leave you with this trick. Do the best you can, each of us, for your fellow man. Thanks to all I have met, all will be well, don't you fret! Go WyKons!"



*Cheers to
RETIREMENT!*

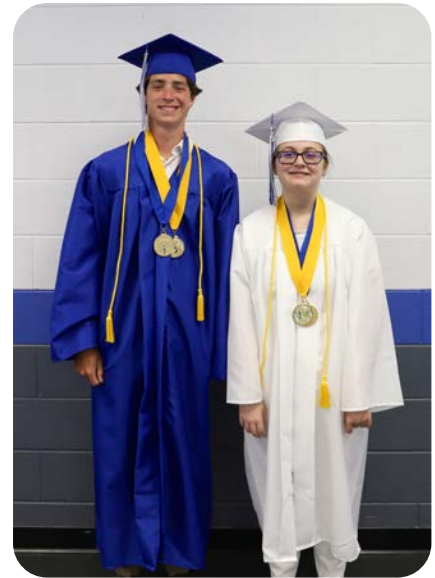
Forest Club Lends a Hand

Forest Club ventured to Perch Lake on May 10. The residents on Perch Lake want to keep the lake in good condition, clean and avoid any invasive species getting into the lake. Forest Club's job was to help with that goal. Our students placed a netting system around the landing area. They did this using poles and weights to keep it secure. With loads of great work ethic and terrific teamwork, the day was a success!



CONGRATS

Class of 2024



May 2024 Sports

Track Goes the Distance

Track coaches Mr. Taff and Mrs. Berutti shared their thoughts about the upcoming U.P. Finals track meet.

Which players are eligible to compete?

- Mrs. Berutti: The top 4 at Regionals will meet the other top 4 players.
- Mr. Taff: Any student athletes to make top 4 at Regionals this Thursday, in addition to placing top 4 at the previous meet in West Pac. Coaches have players in mind, but that's between coach and student.

How confident are you for the meet?

- Mrs. Berutti: We should qualify in 15 out of the 17 events.
- Mr. Taff: Because of a small number of boys in the track team, it is very challenging competing with teams of 20-30 other players.

#1

Congratulations to girls track for winning Regionals! It was a very intense meet, head to head until the very last race.



Golf Prepares for U.P. Finals

Boys golf coach Mr. Dallavalle opened up about the upcoming U.P. Finals meet.

Which players are eligible to compete?

- Mr. Dallavalle: These are the golfers that will be playing in U.P. Finals this year: Anthony Sucholl, Jared Pietila, and Nathan Camps.

How confident are you in the meet?

- Mr. Dallavalle: I am very confident that each of these athletes can shoot their personal best score at U.P. Finals since we are playing on our home course.



Don't Miss Out!

May 21-Tuesday
Tennis GNCs

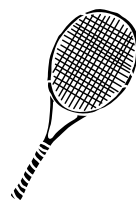
May 29- Wednesday
Golf U.P. Finals Meet

June 1- Saturday
Track U.P. Finals Meet

**Congratulations,
Danica Shamion, for
being selected MVP
at the WestPac
Track Conference
Meet!**

Tennis Rallies a Top Spot

On May 21, boys tennis competed at the GNC meet in Gladstone. It was a widespread competition among the conference teams, and our boys tennis team placed 4th!



May 2024 Student Interviews

Freshmen

Your first year in high school is about to end. What advice would you give to the incoming freshmen?

Colt Oliver:

"Put in much effort, stick to your own morals, and don't listen to what other people say because it doesn't define you."



Vivian Holm:

"Do your work, and be involved in sports & school activities."

Sophomores

Junior year is just around the corner, and it isn't easy, so how are you going to spend your summer relaxing?

Colton Dye:

"Playing my guitar and traveling."



Lacey Shamion:

"Tanning at the beach. I'm not going to be thinking about school."

Juniors

As next year's senior class, what are you most excited for?

Jayden Mcwethy:

"I'm excited for the freedom that comes with being a senior and the fun activities."



Haylie Murillo:

"I'm excited for the Senior Trip."

Seniors

Now that you're moving onto the next chapter in your life, what are you going to miss the most?

Jack Nordang:

"Being class trouble maker. Someone's gotta carry the boats."



Zoey Harris:

"Literally nothing."

May 2024 Student Interviews

Teacher Feature Q & A

So, Mr. Barry, this is your last year with us at West Iron, and you've been teaching here for many years. You've been with the school since before this location and have been able to see it grow and thrive. If you could have a conversation with your first-year-teacher self, what advice would you give yourself?

"My advice to myself after 31 years of teaching...

1. You'll make mistakes, so learn from them.
2. Ask other teachers for help.
3. Don't live at school.
4. If you have a lesson ready for the day, it's ok to stray away from that lesson."

Now that we're so close to the end of the year, what do you think you are going to miss the most after you retire?

"I definitely am going to miss the daily interactions with the students. The camaraderie with other teachers (especially the lunch crew). I don't think retirement will sink in until school starts next fall and I don't have to go to school. It's been a good 31 years."



Happy Retirement

One Last Hoorah for Mr. Soha

Let us be reminded one more time of Mr. Soha's successful teaching career!

I currently teach Algebra thru Calculus and have taught just about every high school math class in my 28 plus years of teaching. Although I graduated from the University of Notre Dame with an Electrical Engineering degree, I quickly gravitated toward teaching and coaching (mostly football) because of the positive influence my teachers and coaches had on me. Teaching, I believe, is a calling, and I have been blessed to have been around all the fine people I have met, taught, worked with and hopefully influenced in a positive way over the years. Anything have given, I have received tenfold in return from the people and students involved in this profession.

So thanks to all of the people in the places I have taught: Richmond, Virginia; Jacksonville, Florida; Flint, Michigan; Marquette, Michigan; and here at WIC.

— HAPPY —
Retirement



May 2024 Student Life

Students of the Week



STUDENT OF THE WEEK SIERRA HOOPER

Sierra exemplifies what it means to be a diligent student. her effort in class is unparalleled, and she will work until she has mastery of the subject at hand. She helps her fellow classmates and is not afraid to ask questions when needed. She is the model of what a math student should be.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK PEYTON HILL

Peyton is SOTW because of her strong work ethic and attention to detail. This year Peyton has shown tons of growth in class. She comes to class ready to work and uses her time well. Peyton takes pride in her work and is open to suggestions on how to improve. Peyton has the correct attitude for our class and is a joy to work with.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK CALYN JUKKALA

Calyn is a very self-motivated student who strives to better herself in everything she does and is always trying to learn more. She displays tenacity when faced with adversity and has committed herself to becoming a better student as well as an athlete. Aside from being a multi-sport athlete, she is also the president of student council and is able to maintain high-marks in her classes. Calyn's commitment to doing well and her sense of humor make her a great addition at WIC schools.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK BRODI PELKOLA

BRODI IS ALWAYS POLITE AND IS CONSISTENTLY SHOWING RESPECT TO STAFF MEMBERS AND HER PEERS. SHE IS KIND AND CONSIDERATE. BRODI DOES QUALITY WORK AND TAKES PRIDE IN DOING WORK CORRECTLY AND IN A TIMELY MANNER.

Golden Paint Brush

Awards

Congratulations to our Golden Paintbrush Award Winners selected by our art teacher, Mrs. Porier:

Considerate: Chloe Clements (9th)
Ambitious: Peyton Hill (10th)
Masterful: Laurel Johnson (10th)
Creative Thinker: Cheyenne Ritchie (11th)
Renaissance: Kaya Schuyler (11th)
Focus: April Clark (12th)
Excelsior: Harlie Melstrom (12th)



ASA

Our ASA winner for this month was Laurel Johnson.



May 2024 Student Life

Building Trades

We spoke with senior Building Trades student, Ethan Isaacson, about his experience this year and the final results!

What have you learned during your time in Building Trades?

ETHAN ISAACSON:

I've learned so much I don't know where to begin. I've learned how to do everything from framing to roofing to drywall to siding! It's a great class, and I would highly recommend it.

Did you enjoy this building experience?

ETHAN ISAACSON:

I enjoy the experience tremendously! It's by far the best class I've ever taken.

The open house was held on Friday, May 17th. Throughout the day, students were able to attend to see what their classmates had accomplished.



The Building Trades class really drew a crowd this year with the completion of their home, showing the impressive work during the open house held on May 17.



Students and community members alike were able to observe the handiwork and enjoy tours by the class members themselves.



Congratulations to the Building Trades crew on another successful, show stopping home!



“YOUR EDUCATION IS A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR A LIFE THAT IS YOURS TO LEAD.” —NORA EPHRON

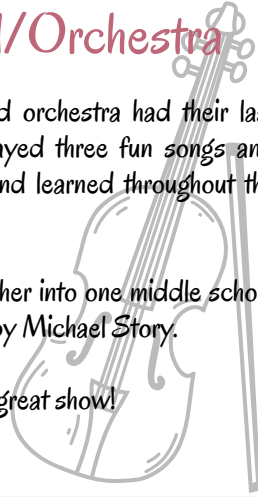
May 2024 Newsworthy Notes

Middle School Band/Orchestra

On April 30th the middle school band and orchestra had their last concert of the school year. Each group played three fun songs and displayed all the skills they had acquired and learned throughout the year.

At the end of their concert, they joined together into one middle school symphony orchestra and played "Slingshot" by Michael Story.

Good job, middle schoolers, for putting on a great show!



Paintbrush Awards

The following middle schoolers earned awards for their amazing creativity and art.

Considerate- Kinsley Zimmerman 6th

Ambitious- Ayden POCOIPA 8th

Masterful- Ariah Lewis 7th

Focus- Eli Oberlander 7th

Creative Thinker- Thor Rypstra 6th

Renaissance- Anastasiia Dudiak 7th

Excelsior- Patience Ractekaus 8th



After School Strings Pizza Party

On May 6th After School Strings ended their year with a fun-filled pizza party celebrating their hard work. The kids enjoyed pizza, cookies, and a fun time playing Just Dance.

The small group opened for the middle/high school concert with a few songs. Many of the students were quite nervous but did an excellent job.

Shoutout to Mrs. Carr for taking the time every Monday to teach these kids skills they'll carry for a lifetime.

Rainbow Run

Elementary schoolers are hard at work preparing for the Rainbow Run on May 30th. The Rainbow Run takes place on our local Apple Blossom trail.

The Rainbow Run gets its title because throughout the trail there are a total of six stations, one for each color of the rainbow. At each station, runners get colorful powder chalk thrown over them.

Everyone is welcome to the run and can expect a fun and colorful experience. Don't forget to wear white!

Important Dates

- May 24th 2nd Grade Trip to Minocqua Zoo
- May 24th Summer Day
- May 28th 8th Grade Trip to Six Flags
- May 29th Kindergarten Graduation
- May 30th Rainbow Run



May 2024 Senior Feature

Top Ten Seniors



Aubrey Bice



Rachel Fanous



Haiden Gill



Julia Gray



Mackenzie Hill



Annika Larson



Danica Shamion



Seanna Stine



Caleb Strom



Johnnothan Swenski

CONGRATULATIONS



~Young's Top Ten Dinner~



Senior Insight

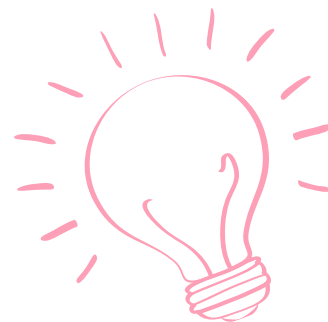
- 1) "How do you feel about finally leaving high school?"
- 2) "How do you feel about going off to be an adult?"
- 3) "In your experience, did high school go by quickly?"

Lauren Shamion

- 1) "I'm sad but also happy to be moving on to life to go into adulthood, excited overall."
- 2) "Yeah, I haven't picked a place to go yet. Idk I have so many options for schooling."
- 3) "Yeah, I do, especially this year went by so fast."

Brennon Gursky

- 1) "It's a relief."
- 2) "Nervous at first, but after I think about it for a while, I think I'll be fine. And considering some of the people I know, I'll be fine."
- 3) "High school after freshman year went by extremely fast, but freshman year felt like an eternity because of COVID."



"YOUR TALENT DETERMINES WHAT YOU CAN DO. YOUR
MOTIVATION DETERMINES HOW MUCH YOU ARE WILLING TO DO.
YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES HOW WELL YOU DO IT."

— LOU HOLTZ

May 2024

Community Spotlight

Iron County Chamber of Commerce Job Postings

The Iron County Chamber of Commerce has a website that posts about the events occurring in Iron River year-round. It is a wonderful source for anything happening in the community and helps organize events and fundraisers around town. Listed below are a small few selections for job openings.

General Concrete: Submit info to hvarhola@gmail.com or call (906)-367-0476 or (906)-367-4513 for more information

Ski Brule: Call 1-800-362-7853 or email resume to opportunities@skibrule.com website: www.skibrule.com/employment

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp: Submit resume to campdirector@fortunelake.org

Iron River Care Center: Call (906)-265-5168

Way Dam Resort: Mail to: Way Dam Resort, 368 Kopf's Rd., Crystal Falls, MI 49920



Campground Openings

Some campgrounds are already opening in our area. Get together your camping supplies because it's time to take a weekend away from the city and enjoy the gorgeous scenery!

Lake Ottawa Recreation Area

Lake Ottawa campground is 95% surrounded by National Forest system land. It offers ideal picnic spots, a pavilion, and fun outdoor activities.

Clint Safford Memorial Campground

This campground is located right in the middle of town, offering access to our main street. The river, Apple Blossom Trail, and ATV trail are all wonderful accessories to camping at this spot.

Paint River Forks Campground

This Campground is about ten minutes out of Iron River. Not only does this provide a perfect entry to the Paint River, but there is also no fee for campers and parking.

Camp Batawagama

Camp Batawagama has provided a fun-filled summer camp experience to people of all ages for decades. This year they have slightly modified camp dates set.

Here is a short copy of the main dates:

Senior Days: June 12-14

Band Camp: June 16-22

Band Camp Concerts

Faculty: June 20

Student: June 22

Youth Camp

Week 1: June 23-29

Week 2: June 30-July 6

Week 3: July 7-13

Week 4: July 14-20

Week 5: July 21-26



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp offers a very wide variety of camping for people of all ages. They run retreats year-round. They're also looking for LITs (leaders in training). Check out the website for more information.

High School Camps:

- High School Week- Old School
- Sr. High Night Owls

Youth Camps:

- Mash Up
- Vagabond
- Venturer

Specialty Camps:

- Art Camp
- Lego Camp
- Camp Acts
- Jr. High Night Owl
- Treehouse Adventure
- Evergreen Camps

May 2024 Pick-Me-Up Page

"I have only to break into the tightness of a strawberry, and I see summer--its dust and lowering skies."

-Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

No-Bake Strawberry Cheesecake Recipe

Ingredients:

For the crust-

- 16 sheets graham crackers
- ½ c. packed light brown sugar
- 10 tbsp. melted salted butter
- nonstick cooking spray

For the filling-

- 1 ¼ c. cold heavy cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 (8-oz.) packages softened cream cheese
- ½ c. granulated sugar
- ¼ c. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 (3-oz.) box strawberry gelatin
- 6 tbsp. boiling water
- 1 ½ c. finely chopped strawberries



Directions:

1. For the crust: To a food processor, add the graham crackers and brown sugar. Process until finely ground, about 1 minute. With the processor running, slowly pour in the melted butter. Process the mixture until it is the texture of coarse sand.
2. Spray a 9-inch springform pan with cooking spray. Transfer the graham cracker mixture to the pan. Using a measuring cup, press the mixture into the bottom and about 1 1/2 inches up the sides of the pan. Press firmly to pack and make an evenly thick crust. Place in the freezer for 20 minutes.
3. For the filling: To the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, add the heavy cream and vanilla. Mix on medium-high speed for 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer the whipped cream to a mixing bowl.
4. To the same stand mixer bowl, add the cream cheese. Beat the cream cheese on medium speed until softened and smooth. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, and add the granulated sugar, powdered sugar, lemon zest, and lemon juice. Beat to combine on medium speed for 1 minute.
5. In a medium bowl, combine the strawberry gelatin with the boiling water. Whisk vigorously for at least 2 minutes to dissolve the gelatin. Add the gelatin mixture to the cream cheese mixture. Beat on medium speed until very smooth, scraping the sides and bottom of the bowl. Fold in the strawberries.
6. Add one-third of the whipped cream to the cream cheese mixture, and gently fold in with a rubber spatula until completely combined. Add the remaining two-thirds of the whipped cream and continue until completely combined.
7. Remove the crust from the freezer and add the filling. Gently push into an even layer and smooth the top. Cover the pan with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 12 hours and up to 2 days.
8. Loosen the cheesecake from the pan with a small knife or offset spatula. Transfer the cheesecake to a serving platter or cutting board. Cut slices with a warm knife.

*Source: www.thepioneerwoman.com

Fun Summer Activities to Pass the Time

1. Go camping in the woods
2. Host a picnic
3. Paint rocks to hide around town
4. Attend an outdoor concert or a carnival
5. Set up bird feeders in your yard
6. Fly a kite at the park or in an open field
7. Go fishing
8. Tie-dye a t-shirt
9. Go bird watching or bug hunting
10. Watch the sunset or go stargazing



*List compiled from realsimple.com and others.

Most Beautiful Flowers to Plant This Season

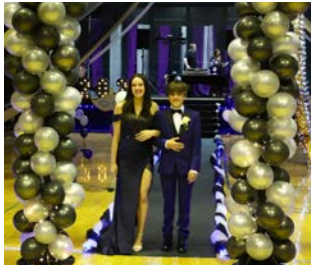
1. Angelonia/snapdragon: these do best in rich, well-draining soil in a sunny location, though they will tolerate some shade.
2. Hibiscus: these do best in full sun with moist soil.
3. Bougainvillea: these do best in dry conditions and require deep waterings every three or four weeks as opposed to frequent shallow waterings.
4. Globe Amaranth: these do best in full sun and prefer moist soil, but they tolerate dry conditions once established.
5. Lantana: these do best in full sun and should be watered only when the top 1-2 inches of soil are dry.

*List compiled from www.thepioneerwoman.com.

May 2024 Trending Media

Perfect Pairs

These students matched wonderfully at prom.



Rowyn Fiszer & Mason Ahola



Gracyn Melstrom & Nick Pantti

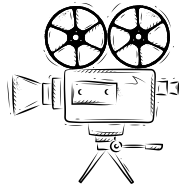


Cheyenne Ritchie & Lane Norman

Movie Madness

Feeling old yet? Here are three movies turning 25 this year:

- Toy Story 2
- The Iron Giant
- 10 Things I Hate About You



Tradition of '25

The junior tradition lives on each school year when these lovely ladies show up in their best dressed as the year draws to an end.



Windows Down, Music Up

Here's a list for the perfect summer playlist starter pack.

- "Party In The U.S.A." by Miley Cyrus
- "Hey, Soul Sister" by Train
- "I Love It (feat. Charli XCX)" by Icona Pop, Charli XCX
- "Really Don't Care" by Demi Lovato, Cher Lloyd
- "Honey, I'm Good" by Andy Grammer

Student Showcase

This month, these students artists have been acknowledged...



Savannah Parker-Junior



Peyton Hill-Sophomore



Ashlyn Lutes-Sophomore