

THIS ISSUE

NEWS



Senior Jacob Stewart performs in the Big Apple.

SPORTS



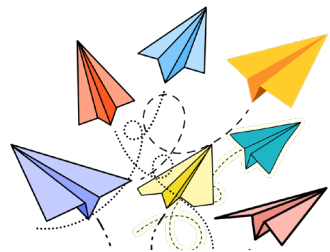
The legendary '71 baseball team, standout coach Keith Grant, and MVP Kyle Ray, were inducted into the IC Hall of Fame.

FEATURE



Many teachers had different jobs before joining the classroom.

OPINION



Post-it note trend takes flight.

CALENDAR

MAY

- May 8: ICHS Spring Play "Puffs" in the PAC @ 7 pm
- May 9: "Puffs" in the PAC @ 2 & 7 pm
- May 18: Senior Awards
- May 21: ICMS/HS Spring Choir Concert
- May 28: Last Student Day
- May 30: Class of 2026 Commencement Ceremony in the ICHS gym at 10 am



Braves Soar to Prestigious Eagle Scout Rank

By: HANK SEITZINGER & ISAAC SMITH
CREEK CURRENT REPORTERS

Becoming an Eagle Scout is the most prestigious and highest rank a scout can earn. To earn this coveted rank, it takes not only a lot of skills and leadership, but also years of time and devotion to being a scout.

After doing all the time and climbing the ranks, it takes one more large project to be completed. Then, scouts can finally reach what they have been looking up to their whole lives.

Four Indian Creek seniors have just achieved this status. Seniors Cale Zimmerman, Gary Turnmire, Owen Stout, and Tyler Lower completed the years of work and their large projects to finalize becoming an Eagle Scout.

Turnmire explained that the challenges faced while



IC's Eagle Scouts, along with their leader, were recently recognized alongside Principal Skobel (left) and Superintendent Dr. Presecki (right).

becoming an Eagle Scout included "instructing the younger scouts to follow instructions. Also all the paper work it takes to finish the Eagle Scout project."

Each of their different projects was celebrated and admired. Cale Zimmerman, whose project was to make and place eight picnic tables

at the Trafalgar community center, exemplified how helpful the scouts are to the community.

Owen Stout's project was to make flag retirement boxes, a meaningful and special showcase for the flags.

Gary Turnmire's project was making flower boxes and putting in a fence for the

Lord's Locker in Trafalgar, a gesture aimed at helping a giving staple to the town. The Lords Locker is a charity for anyone in need.

Lastly, Tyler Lower took his project to the school and helped out the students by putting up story boards as well as picnic tables in the recess area for elementary and intermediate school students. When asked what being an Eagle Scout meant to him, Lower responded, "To me it means serving your community and doing your duty to God every day."

All of the Eagle Scouts at Indian Creek are noble, courageous, and hard working young men. They have all been generous enough to use their skills to make the community a better place. These scouts have left a lasting mark on the Indian Creek school and community.

IC Cafeteria Cooks Up Possible New Menu Options

By: HALEIGH BAIRD & CASSIDY COOK
CREEK CURRENT REPORTERS

ICHS recently tested potential menu options for the upcoming school year. Over the past couple of months, the school has offered different lunch items, including a new wing bar, buffalo chicken pizza, and, most recently, Cajun chicken pasta.

The potential upcoming options may include orange chicken, soy garlic chicken, and teriyaki chicken, along with a bowl of ramen noodles and vegetables.

dles and vegetables.

On February 10, Indian Creek hosted groups of students from the middle and high schools to meet with two representatives from the Nippon Shokken food company. Students were given samples of the different sauces and ramen to help determine whether the foods would be something kids would enjoy for lunch.

In 2025, Beth Frisbee attended a conference in Chicago and came across the Nippon Shokken com-

pany displaying the sauces. Frisbee expressed that she was impressed by their food and wanted them to make an appearance at Indian Creek as a potential addition to the lunch menu.

When asked what their favorite thing that they tried was, students responded saying that they liked the orange chicken and soy garlic chicken best, and that it was hard to choose between the two.

Students said that they also enjoyed the ramen and

were looking forward to seeing it potentially added to the menu next year.

"This would give picky eaters a lot more options, and that's exciting," said sophomore, Chloe McGuinness.



IC students line up to sample different potential lunch menu options from Nippon Shokken.

Required Digital Readiness Course Teaches Tech as a Tool

By: CASSIDY COOK
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This year, ICHS introduced the first state-required digital readiness course to current and future high school students. The new class taught by Mr. Ranard aims to help students gain an understanding of modern technology, along with figuring out how to benefit from its accessibility.

Mr. Ranard has focused on teaching the students in this course to work with technology as a tool rather than a quick trick to get work done faster, stating, "The



Photo by: Ron Lach

what it is like to program AI, and also teach students how to properly prompt AI."

People across the state have expressed simultaneous interest and anxiety regarding the requirement due to environmental concerns and

potential for over-reliance, but what do the students already enrolled in the course have to say about the course?

Freshman Breland Long has been enrolled in the year-long class since the beginning of the first semester. When questioned over the positives of the class, she stated, "I get to learn how to properly communicate with AI. The use of AI is becoming more popular in our society, so it is important that we are taught the correct way to use it."

While the class holds the benefit of getting kids to understand AI better, it also

connects students with technology in other ways as well. According to Mr. Ranard, "The class is centered around how AI currently impacts society in both positive and negative ways.

The course also dives into basic computer science topics like hardware and software, the internet, and working with data in spreadsheets." Grading is determined by the ability to use AI properly, the ability to program/code at basic levels, and a basic understanding of how computers work with hardware and software components.

We're doing cool things on Instagram — come hang out with us!

CREEK CURRENT

ICHS JOURNALISM

IC Students Prepare for an "Experience of a Lifetime"

By: ELISE GIGER
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

This summer Mrs. Blazer is taking a group of ICHS students to Europe.

While touring France and Italy, they will also be taking a trip to one of the Seven Wonders of the World: the Colosseum in Rome. Other places they will be visiting include the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Palace of Versailles, the leaning Tower of Pisa, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Vatican museums, and more.

IC Senior Eliza Chapman said she is "looking forward to seeing the difference in culture, eating the food, and just the freedom of being in a different country" and getting "to see the world first

IC Senior Earns Honor of Singing in Carnegie Hall in NYC

By: LIV PETRO
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

In February senior Jacob Stewart traveled to New York City to sing at Carnegie Hall. Stewart performed with the Honors Performance Series, a program that chooses top-performing high-schoolers from around the globe. With over 10,000 applicants, Stewart had to compete with students from the US, China, Canada, South Korea, and many other countries, and



Students will see this famous colosseum, along with other fascinating things, on their visit to Italy.

hand. I really do hope that I enjoy as much as I think I will."

Mrs. Blazer said, "I hope it is the most fun and amaz-

he was one of the over 750 students chosen.

When Stewart learned about the experience, he called it a "once in a lifetime opportunity," saying, "I've always had an interest in traveling, New York being one of the places I wanted to see the most."

His days in NYC consisted of rehearsals and sight-seeing, even getting to see "Little Shop of Horrors" on Broadway.

ing educational experience of their life. My hope is that this trip inspires students to explore and travel more in the future. Sometimes it's scary to leave the bubble in which we live, but the sooner you do it, the sooner you realize the benefit and that it's not that scary afterall."

Blazer also shares what she likes most about having the opportunity to take students to Europe. She loves giving students this experience. She states that "it's so important to go out and experience the world because we are just one tiny microscopic part of it. International travel is the most rewarding part of my teaching career. Watching students

The IC theater produced "Little Shop of Horrors" last spring. In it, Stewart played the lead role of Seymour. "Its a show that's very special to me because it was my first lead role; it helped me discover my love for acting." He expressed that it was very heartwarming to see the very same musical a year after he starred in it. He was also eager "to see the Museum of Broadway, since theater means so much to me."

flourish under the same sun, but in a foreign country, is an absolute blessing. I feel so incredibly blessed to be able to provide these opportunities for our students."

ICHS senior Gary Turnmire said, "I'm most looking forward to getting to see all the cool buildings and experience the different cultures in Europe." Turnmire also says, "I'm excited and can't wait to go to France and Italy. I think it will be a great experience and one that I will remember years from now."

The next Europe trip, a Holocaust European trip, will be in 2028. Students interested on going on the trip should contact Mrs. Blazer for more information.



IC Senior, Jacob Stewart, took in Times Square in NYC before performing at Carnegie Hall.

PAGE AFTER PAGE



By MAGGIE SMITH
News Editor

Standardized Anxiety

The pressure that school puts on students revolving around standardized testing is detrimental. While high school has definitely improved in its outlook on these tests, there is still a lot of room for improvement.

In middle and intermediate school, we pretty much spent the whole year discussing these tests. There is no reason to tell a child that a standardized test will affect their ability to get into college, at least in middle school. The only standardized test that actually affects the student is the SAT, and even that is decreasing its impact.

The kids that do not care about school are the ones they try to scare into caring, but that never works. It just makes anxious students more anxious. I have worried about getting into college since fifth grade, and teachers and administrators in the younger schools did not help with that anxiety. Obviously, this does not go for all teachers or administrators; however, the system is not working.

Standardized testing does have its benefits, but making them out to be the end all, be all of the school year just puts an unhealthy amount of pressure on students. School should be about learning new things, not passing a test. Our children should not have to worry about their futures to that extent that early on in school. It is just not healthy. As a society we need to work on other ways to access our students' knowledge base or just change our mindset.

The tests are important, but they do not determine who someone is as a person. Failing a test does not make you a bad person or a bad student, and I know from experience that some kids really need to hear that. Academic pressure is bad enough without the constant focus on a test that does not affect the student much.

Seniors Dance Away from ICHS with Five State Championships

By: EDIT GUNNARSSON
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Indian Creek's dance team might be one of the smaller teams, but led by coach Julie Anderson-Beasley, they still manage to bring home victory after victory.

On March 14, the Indian Creek High School dance team competed in the IHS-DTA State Competition in Indianapolis. The team, consisting of seniors Grace Ellis and Jaycee Snyder, junior Cameron Greathouse, and freshman Esther Knight, competed in the scholastic jazz and hiphop category, and secured first place in the jazz category for the second year in a row.

Anderson-Beasley started as an assistant coach at Indian Creek High School in 2006 and became the head coach in 2007. She said that this season the team had a new hip hop choreographer who "challenged and pushed the dancers in new ways."

After a season filled with ups and downs, the team delivered when they really had to. Dancing to an Elvis song for which they had to learn some classic Elvis moves, the IC dance team had lost to Marion High School in the



jazz category all season, but worked hard and won against them in the state meet with only .02 points difference.

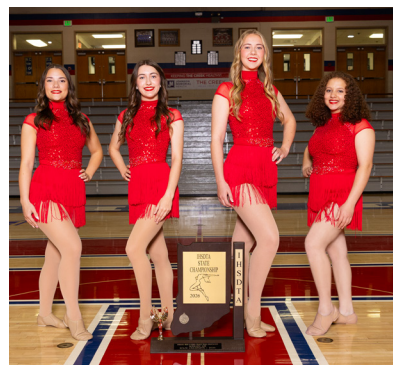
"I tell my dancers all the time that a placement is just someone's opinion on that day. What really matters is that they put their all into a performance and walk off the floor feeling great about it. When they finished their jazz dance, I was so proud of all they accomplished in that performance. I knew that even if they didn't win, they should still be proud of how they danced. I was so happy the judges felt that dance was deserving of the first place trophy that day. Watching

the dancers bring home another state championship title to Indian Creek always warms my heart," said coach Julie Anderson-Beasley.

Senior Jaycee Snyder had a lot of emotions after the performance. "The feeling after winning jazz this year was different than any other year we had won state because we had not won a competition with our jazz dance since the beginning of January. I was just so shocked that we pulled it off, just a tenth of a point ahead of the second place team." She also added that it was a bittersweet moment to dance in her last high school state competition

championships in their four years of high school. They understand that accolades like this are earned with effort, dedication, and responsibility. I am so thankful for the examples they have set for future dancers at IC."

In recent years the dance team has been very successful in their state competitions. Anderson-Beasley said they have won state for scholastic hiphop all the years between 2021-2025, and in 2025 they won their first state champion title in scholastic jazz. "It is very special every time because you truly never know the outcome and it feels rewarding after all the hours the team puts into working on the dances," said Greathouse on the team's state championships. Her favorite part of the dance team is the bonds and friendships they've created over the years.



Bed Time Technology Use Could be Disrupting People's Beauty Sleep

By: EDIT GUNNARSSON
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

It's easy to end up on the phone after a long day before going to bed, but that has bigger effects than one might think. Most people have probably heard that teenagers and adults need from seven to nine hours of sleep every night for both health and mental well-being. Without enough sleep, the ability to work, think, react and learn becomes worse and it also impacts the heart, metabolism and immune system. Even if people get these



hours of sleep every night, it might not be the best quality of sleep if they were scrolling on social media for an hour before.

One of the biggest reasons for bad sleep quality is because of the blue light that comes from phones or other

devices. According to the article "Screen time before bed: How tech affects sleep habits" (missionhealth.org), by Emily Paulsen, there is 25% of this blue light in the sun. This blue light is good because it acts as a natural alarm clock telling us to be awake during the day, but being exposed to this before bed when a person should be getting tired is not. Science shows that this light suppresses melatonin which is the hormone that helps regulate sleep. Even if the brightness is turned down or the phone is set to

dark mode, people still get exposed to this light.

Other factors that disrupt sleep quality are stimulating content such as watching a show, playing games, or scrolling on social media. Just having the phone beside bed without the notifications turned off can be disrupting. The National Sleep Foundation has also found that screentime during the day has an impact on the sleep quality, especially for teenagers and kids.

Paulsen added some tips to get a better night's sleep.

"Tech can disrupt sleep for people of all ages, especially children... Even charging tech in the bedroom can impact sleep. Set up a charging area in another room - or at least out of reach - while you sleep to prevent distractions that could wake you up."

She also advised people to dim their brightness. Even if it doesn't get rid of the blue light, it does give less signal to stay awake. Also things like journaling, meditating or taking a bath before bed can help to relax the body and get a better night's sleep.

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Legacies Secured, New Names Etched into Indian Creek's

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

By: ABRAM WISEMAN
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

The 2026 Indian Creek Athletic Hall of Fame inductees were recognized during halftime of the boys basketball game Thursday, February 26, 2026, to celebrate their achievements and legacy.

Those inducted into the Hall of Fame were wrestling coach Keith Grant, basketball and football player Kyle Ray, and the 1971 boys' baseball team and coach, Don Poole.



Former ICES principal Keith Grant was honored for his prestigious run as a celebrated wrestling coach.

Marcia Zupancic, daughter of Don Thompson, who was a member of the 1971 baseball team, said, "There is nothing my dad would have loved more than his whole team being honored together. I wish he could have lived long enough to be physically present to share in that night of celebration, but I'm grateful that his school and his teammates still held space for him and his contributions to that team. That is what school spirit and true team camaraderie are supposed to look like."

Rob Wilson, member of the 1971 baseball team, said, "I really appreciate the honor that was given to the 1971 Braves team. That was a special group of young men who came together and worked hard in representing our school and community. It was such a privilege to be able to get the opportunity to meet with the team 55 years later. Go, Braves!"

Keith Grant was a beloved Indian Creek Elementary principal for years. He helped start Indian Creek's wrestling program and took several



Teammates of the 1971 sectional-winning baseball team alongside family members of players who have passed away, received honor and admittance into the Indian Creek Hall of Fame for their historic achievements and incredible camaraderie.

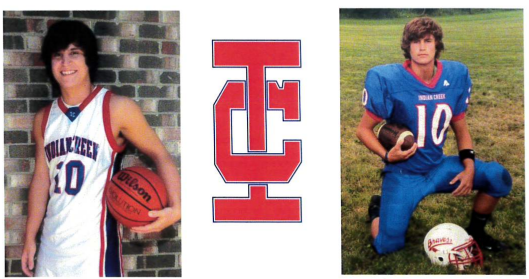
wrestlers to state, with three achieving the top spot of the podium. Grant said, "I am honored and humbled to be chosen for induction into the Indian Creek Athletic Hall of Fame. Having spent more than thirty years pursuing my passion for wrestling and coaching within the Indian Creek program, I consider myself extremely fortunate. This recognition reflects the dedication and commitment I have invested in both the sport and the community over the decades."

The last inductee, Kyle Ray, stood out for his incredible athletic achievements in football and basketball. Ray said, "It was a tremendous honor being inducted into the Indian Creek Hall of

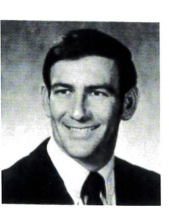
Fame. I had so many great teammates and coaches at IC. It was an honor to compete as a Brave in football and basketball. I loved every second of it. Thankful for the journey! The coolest thing for me was being able to join my dad in the IC HOF. He was my biggest role model and inspiration, so being able to join him in the HOF was something I'll never forget. Being able to share that night with my family and friends who supported me since I was young was amazing! It was also very meaningful for me to have my community recognize me in that way. I'm proud to be from The Creek!"

Later this year, Indian Creek High School will

HALL OF FAME 2026



1971 SECTIONAL AND COUNTY CHAMPS



KEITH GRANT

KYLE RAY

announce that the ICHS 2027 Athletic Hall of Fame is open. ICHS highlights the requirements from the Hall of Fame, saying that it is, "Established to honor the outstanding contributions of athletes, teams, and coaches who have left a lasting impact on Indian Creek athletics, the Hall of Fame celebrates excellence, dedication, and sportsmanship within our school community."

Anyone is able to nominate



Former ICHS standout star, Kyle Ray, was chosen for induction into the Hall of Fame for his accolades as a two-sport athlete.

an athlete for the ICHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Individual students and teams are eligible ten years after graduation. Coaches must have a minimum of five years of coaching at IC, and they have to be nominated by current/former coach, administrator, community member, or teammate and approved by the committee. There are also some recommended accolades from the student nominees including individual or team advancing past the sectional tournament, All-American, All-State, All-County, and/or All-Conference status, and/or school record holder.

Overall, the Hoosiers had a program-record eight players taken in the draft. But the signings did not stop after the seventh round. Several key players followed their teammates, including Roman Hemby and E.J. Williams Jr. going to the Raiders, and Mikhail Kamara signing with the 49ers. Indiana University fans are going to be watching many professional teams this year to see how these young athletes' skills transfer to the NFL.

How 'Bout Them Hoosiers?



By JOHN CAVE
Sports Editor

The Final Draft

Tensions were high on April 23 as IU fans everywhere waited to hear NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announce the first pick of the 2026 NFL Draft. The Las Vegas Raiders were on the clock, and many analysts and fans believed that they would select IU quarterback Fernando Mendoza, marking the program's first first overall pick since the 1938 draft. As Roger Goodell announced that the Raiders would indeed select him, fans everywhere cheered. Mendoza hugged his mother from their Miami home. This would be only the beginning of a historic draft weekend for the Indiana Hoosiers.

After Mendoza's first overall selection, the next player to be taken was Omar Cooper, Jr. Going to the Jets, this pick marked the first time that IU had multiple players picked in the first round. Cornerback D'Angelo Ponds was also taken by the Jets in the second round, followed by running back Kaelon Black in the third round. Division rivals Baltimore and Pittsburgh selected Elijah Sarratt and Riley Nowakowski in the fourth and fifth rounds, respectively. To the dismay of Colts fans, the Tennessee Titans picked center Pat Coogan in the sixth round, followed by a second hit when the Houston Texans selected linebacker Aiden Fisher in the seventh round.

Overall, the Hoosiers had a program-record eight players taken in the draft. But the signings did not stop after the seventh round. Several key players followed their teammates, including Roman Hemby and E.J. Williams Jr. going to the Raiders, and Mikhail Kamara signing with the 49ers. Indiana University fans are going to be watching many professional teams this year to see how these young athletes' skills transfer to the NFL.

ICHS Runners are Still Chasing Mark Sisson's Incredible Record

By: HANK SEITZINGER
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

The year was 1979 at Indian Creek, just 12 years after the school was founded. This is when long distance running phenom Mark Sisson took over the running scene at Indian Creek.

Sisson is still known to this day at IC for his two major accomplishments, one of which being his still-standing 3200 meter run school record with an astonishing time of 9:05. To put that into perspective for someone who may not be a runner, the average running mile time in the United States is about ten minutes per mile. Sisson ran two consecutive 4:30 miles in a row, so therefore he ran two miles before most people can run one.

There hasn't been anyone to contend with that impressive benchmark at IC since Sisson. It is typical to only have one or two athletes at IC

be able to break the 10 minute barrier in this event each year, but none have gotten close to the low nines like Sisson. Therefore, it could be multiple decades before an athlete at IC is able to take down this record.

Now, for what Sisson's legacy is primarily known for at Indian Creek. It was the 1979 Indiana State Championships. This is when Sisson held off the strong field of the best runners in the state at the 2-mile distance to be the first ever state champion in Indian Creek School history. Sisson doing this led to recruitment from multiple Division 1 colleges such as Williams College and Indiana University. Sisson later attended Williams College where he competed in cross country and track and field.

He kept his running career going further than the collegiate level, being a qualifier



for the 1980 Olympic trials in the marathon distance. That is where he achieved his impressive time of a 2 hour 18 minute marathon, averaging a 5:16 mile for 26.2 miles, which placed him in the 5th position, missing the world team by just two spots.

His athletic career didn't end there because he went on to place 4th in the Iron-

man World Championships, finally concluding his athletic career after that huge achievement.

Reflecting back on his days at IC, Sisson said, "We had a very good coach, Ralph Sieboldt. I believe he is now in the Indiana High School Track & Cross Country Hall of Fame."

Sisson talked about his training, saying, "I did have a solid group of teammates that started training together around our sophomore year. We would typically meet most mornings prior to school and get in a morning run, typically three to four miles."

Sisson explained that his his favorite experience at Indian Creek High School was "Winning the last IHSAA 2 mile. (The state has since converted to meters.) It was the first state title in sports for the school I believe. I know there have been a few

since and most recently Ms. Dowty winning her second cross country title."

Current cross country and track coach Brady Devine explained, "Mark Sisson's record in the 3200 meter run is likely the most untouchable track and field record we have at Indian Creek on the boys' side. Being state champion from such a small school in 1979 speaks to the legacy of Mark and how every kid running distance since then has been chasing that level of success." This truly shows how impressive this record is even to this day with all the technological and scientific gains the sport has had since 1979.

This record has already stood for 47 years and only time will tell when this record will be broken. All there is to say is it will take a special talent for any chance of something that great to happen.

Adventures of King of Akron, LeBron James, Continue in NBA Playoffs

By: WALKER OLIVER
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

LeBron James was born on December, 30 1984, in Akron, Ohio. On this day, James would become the King of Akron.

James was drafted straight out of high school in 2001, and he was drafted to the Cleveland Cavaliers. During the time when James was drafted, the Cavs were known as one of the worst teams in the league. James stated that his goal was to

turn this franchise around and lead them to a championship. In James' first year, the Cavs had a losing season, but despite this rough season, he won Rookie of the Year.

In 2007, the Cavs would go to their first ever NBA Finals appearance and lose to the San Antonio Spurs. After this, James would make "The Decision" - which would be nationally televised - where he would announce he was leaving Cleveland and going

to the Miami Heat. He would stay in Miami for four years, and during these four years he would win two NBA championships.

After a good four years, James would go back to Cleveland and take them to four NBA championships, losing to the Warriors in 2015, 2017, and 2018. In 2016, James would lead the Cavs to a 3-1 comeback to beat the Warriors to become the NBA champions. This would be his third ring.

James had a great run with the Cavs for those four years.

In the summer of 2018, he would sign a deal that would set shock waves across the NBA - he would sign with the Los Angeles Lakers. The Lakers built their program around James and made many trades from 2018-2020. He had a rough year in 2018-19 with the Lakers, losing 45 games. The Lakers would sign Anthony Davis for the 2019-20 season to team up with James. This season was

known as "the bubble" season - NBA teams would only play in Orlando with minimal fans due to Covid. This season, the Lakers would be victorious, with LeBron leading them to a NBA championship against the Miami Heat, his old team.

James is currently still with the Lakers, and now his son Bronny James is on the same team as him, hoping to carry on the legacy. The Lakers are currently battling the Rockets in the NBA finals.

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What's Trending Isn't a Coincidence; It's a Pattern

By: EDIT GUNNARSSON
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Trends are something that exist in everything from fashion, politics, and technology. There are constantly waves of different trends in society, and they can differ depending on the culture and what is going on in the world. But what makes a trend, and how are they born?

A trend is a big cycle of influence. It starts with a designer or innovator who creates something and gets introduced to an influencer or "trendsetter" who starts

promoting this style or movement. This often leads to an adaptation by society because of people's desire to "fit in". When they see people wearing a new type of shoes or a pattern that is being worn by many, they are likely to want that, too. Trends are here for a while and then get replaced by new ones.

One of the reasons why people hop on trends is because of something called the bandwagon effect. It happens when people adopt certain things like fashion trends, movements, or behaviors.

According to thewellness-corner.com, social approval is a big, powerful source for the bandwagon effect. When people see others do something, they assume it's the right thing to do and are likely to hop on it even though they may have some doubts. The fear of standing out is also a reason for the bandwagon effect.

"I think social media has a big impact on what we wear and what we have to have, like certain iPhones or things like that. I definitely think there is a standard of how

we have to be, and I see it in school or in public with girls my age," says IC junior Lilly Love. "Sometimes I do feel like I have to keep up with the trends either because I actually like it or it's just because it's a trend."

While trends can be fun, they can also put pressure on individuals. They are not just a coincidence; companies, influencers, and psychology shape them. Through the bandwagon effect and social media, people are encouraged to follow trends to "fit in".

Unified Sound Brought Both Harmony and Connection

By: HALEIGH BAIRD
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

United Sound is an activity that introduces special-needs

students to instruments and music. United Sound was started at IC about ten years ago, according to band teacher Amy Heavilin.

In 2014, Heavilin, along with essential skills teacher, Sharon Hogue, started a general music class for the Essential Skills students.

After a few years, a friend of Heavilin's reached out and told her about United Sound. Heavilin said that it was already like what they were doing to begin with, so they brought in some instruments

to help teach and make the class even more enjoyable.

The group met during IRP on Wednesdays and Thursdays to sight-read music with the Essential Skills students. As with Unified Sports, United Sound requires mentors, instruments, and time. The recent schedule changes and the addition of eight periods a day have taken away IRP and the time needed for United Sound.

United Sound has been a fun activity to do throughout high school and was an amazing way to connect with Essential Skill students. Several students have participated in this activity, two of whom are Ellie Cole and Samuel Hiner.

Heavilin says, "I loved when we were able to perform at Lucas Oil Stadium for Bands of America Grand Nationals. I also love when we've had composers write music for the national organization, and we've helped to premiere those pieces at the National Concert Band Festival, which is held in Indianapolis each year."

Cole and Hiner echo those sentiments, with Hiner saying that he enjoyed playing at Lucas Oil with the Alabama Marching Band and Cole saying she enjoyed playing "Just Dance" with everyone.

This activity is also a fun way to work alongside colleges. Heavilin says, "We've played with Michigan State,

Murray State, Alabama, Ohio University, Jacksonville State, Bands of America Honor Band at the Rose Bowl, and DCI Impact Band. We've also performed in a concert band setting with the Music for All Honor Band, the Carmel High School Orchestra, and the Franklin College Band."

Many believe that United Sound should be brought back due to the benefits and enjoyment it provided. Heavilin assures that she is trying her hardest to bring it back since currently the Essential Skills students don't have a music class. Heavilin, Cole, and Hiner, all say that they miss it a lot and they all hope for the music class to return soon.

Past Jobs Bring Different Experiences to IC

By: ARIANNA MITCHELL
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

Many of IC's teachers tried different professions before teaching. Whether they had high school or college jobs or if they started a new career altogether, a few of IC's teachers did something else before coming to the classroom.

English teacher Mrs. Smith said, "In high school, I worked at an ice cream shop in Nashville called Miller's Ice Cream. It was such a fun job, and the best part about it was being able to eat all the yummy ice cream. In college, I worked at Steak 'n Shake. We sponsored the IU basketball team, so all of the players were always coming in to eat, which, as a college student myself and a lifelong IU fan, was super cool to me."

IC history teacher, Mr. Fisher, said, "Before I was a teacher, I worked at the



Mr. Fisher prepares the dinosaur exhibit for museum guests.

Children's Museum in Indianapolis as an artifact conservator and carpenter. I repaired, cleaned, maintained, or placed/removed artifacts throughout the museum. I also helped build all the exhibit cases that we put artifacts in." Fisher said that the fun part about working there was "always putting new stuff on display while the museum was open for visitors, like reinstalling a dinosaur bone and explaining that process to guests while doing

it, because it's usually a very invisible job."

IC special ED assistant Mrs. Mulinaro said, "I worked as a flight attendant for six years for an airline that did military charters. My first international flight was to Iceland." She became a flight attendant for the experience of it.

IC special education teacher, Mrs. Oliver said, "When I was in my twenties, I was a firefighter and an EMT at White River Township. I decided to take the leap and become a firefighter and an EMT because a boy told me I could never do it, complete the training, or get hired. Guess I proved him wrong."

Many Indian Creek teachers experienced different things in their lives, and those experiences helped develop the teachers they are today.

Creek Current Special "Kingdom in the Sky" Poem by Ansley Brunzman

Your flaming feathers reflect the sun's light, the thorny brambles clinging to your ruby feathers. Your curiosity knows no bounds as you try to go through the glossy mirror. You gaze at your fiery brave spirit as your black wings take you soaring through the clouds. Suddenly you're watching the fluffy clouds moving rhythmically to the music oh so sweet. Cotton candy puffs fall to your feet. You spread your wings once more as you take the pieces of rosy clouds in your talons soaring above the blush. As you continue to explore the kingdom in the sky, the sun greets with its lovely warmth as it shares its glow with you and eventually dips. It's time for you to fall back to the ground as the night engulfs you. The dust of sleep reaches you and your adventure is now complete as you fall into a cozy slumber.

THE SPOTLIGHT



By KAYCEE TOWELL
Feature Editor

Classrooms Cut Out Cell Phones

Phone usage in schools has been a polarizing topic for many years, but now more than ever due to phones being banned permanently from Indiana schools.

Indiana passed a law in March of 2024 that prohibits students from using their phones during class unless needed for educational purposes. This law, though meant to help students focus on class, had some people wondering whether it did.

The new law will take effect on July 1. It will consist of a total ban on all electronics, including cell phones, smartwatches, and any wireless devices. The way this law works is that it will completely ban phones, not just during class. This includes passing periods and lunches. The only exceptions are if students have to use it as a translator or have a doctor's note (for example, for diabetes monitoring).

When asked if she saw any upsides to the new policy, Indian Creek sophomore Grace Runnebohm responded with, "I think this policy gives me more opportunities to socialize with others, but I don't see how it can make me be more productive or social. If I don't want to talk, I'm not going to."

The bill passed the Senate with a 28-19 vote, and the Indiana Senate with a 36-12 vote. It was then sent to the governor and signed on March 5. Though this started as a statewide concern, it has become inevitable.

This law has left people with many questions, the main one being "Will this law truly help students?" If the law had just been applied more strictly to classrooms, it would make it easier to adjust. However, with the law also applying to passing periods and lunch time, it's hard to foresee how students will react.

Technology at the Center: Helping or Hurting Students' Learning?

By: JENNA ROETHEMEIER
CREEK CURRENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There is no doubt that technology is at the center of everyone's life in most environments, including a classroom. Many K-12 schools have brought technological tools into the classroom. There are calls for other schools to embrace technology, particularly in underserved areas that suffer from a "digital divide." Technology has had a transformative effect on all schools and universities.

For many teachers, tech-



nology has become crucial to the classroom by impacting student engagement, interactions, and teaching methods. Teachers use interactive software and programs so

that students can respond to questions and lectures digitally. Teachers also find e-books and other digital resources very helpful. Technology makes it easier for students to work together on solving problems in teams. Students can draw and write together in the same program, creating documents that are fully collaborative. Technology also allows students to have access to varieties of information sources at the simple click of a button. Technology is super helpful in the winter when students

have to stay home because of bad weather. Technology allows e-learning for students instead of snow days that students would have to make up at the end of the year.

Technology definitely has some downsides to it as well. The blue rays that technology releases can cause eyestrain when used frequently and can lower attention spans. Another one of the biggest risks of technology is the risks of cyberattacks. Schools are not immune to cybercrime. Students' and staff's information can be hacked

and released. Technology can also increase distractions for students and cause their grades to drop. Students also don't socialize as much now that technology exists.

Another downside to technology is that it is expensive to install and maintain. Also, it doesn't always work, which isn't good because many people have learned to rely on technology.

Overall, technology can be good or bad for students' learning. What makes the difference is how it is used.

Despite Their Reputation for Being Sensitive, Gen Z Fights for Causes

By: ALI PERRY
& SAVANNAH BERTRAM
CREEK CURRENT REPORTERS

Gen Z, the generation of people born between 1997 and 2012, is often perceived as naive or immature. That is due to their lack of experience in the world; they couldn't possibly understand issues greater than what outfit they're going to wear to school the next day. But is this really the case?

Many say Gen Z is sensitive, distracted, and addicted

to social media. With the expansion of technology within the last 20 years, how is a generation supposed to be addicted to something thrown in front of their face as a way to silence them when growing up?

Morgan Wilkerson, a sophomore at ICHS, says, "I feel like we are constantly shamed for how we are on our phones, but it is not our fault when it's all we have known."

The stereotype of Gen Z as

addicted to social media and their phones is hard to break. Social media and electronics have had the biggest impact on this generation of people.

Gen Z is very aware of what's going on in the world right now. Gen Z is one generation that is standing out in the fight for our world. For example, many people aren't satisfied with what is going on in the US, but some of the biggest people fighting for a change are Gen Z.

Roughly around 51% of

the Gen Z population in the United States are or have participated in rallies and protests. In Madagascar, they're protesting chronic water shortages and power cuts. In Bangladesh, student protests against job quotas evolved into a mass uprising ousting the government, and in the Philippines, youth have had protests against alleged misuse of funds and economic inequality. That is only three examples of the many protests led by Gen Z,

on top of the other rallies and protests they contribute to every day.

The idea that Gen Z is sensitive is something that cannot be denied. But do they really have a choice? This world is what they have to grow in, become adults in, start families in, and pursue careers in. Many are scared, and many do not know what their future holds for them, so they absolutely have every right to be sensitive or easily offended.

Do the Benefits of Final Exams Outweigh the Stress They Cause Students?

By: GRACIE WERDEN
CREEK CURRENT REPORTER

IC students have to take final exams for all of their classes. Some positive outcomes are that it prepares a student for the future. Since college students have to take final exams, doing so in high school helps prepare students for college and its expectations. Final exams also reflect all the hard work from the semester/school year and allow students get to show off what they have learned.

Final exams are also a time for teachers to see what they taught the students and to see if it helped them. Final exams are put into schools to help prepare students for the real world.

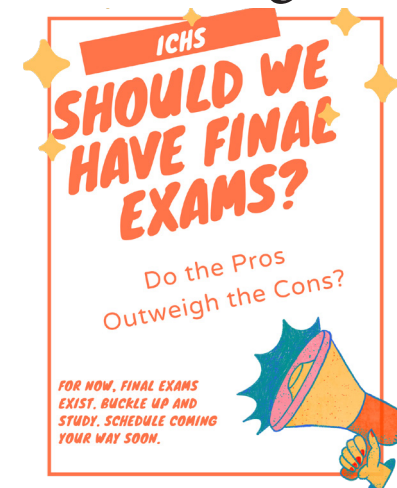
With the Growing Cost of a College Degree, ICHS has a Helpful Solution

By: JENNA ROETHEMEIER
CREEK CURRENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

College has very high prices that can make it inaccessible to many students. For an in-state college student, it costs about \$30,600 per year to go to a school like IU Bloomington. This includes tuition fees, room and

board, books/supplies, and other things such as meal plans. Out-of-state residents have to pay about \$60,349 per year. The final cost can depend heavily on financial aid, as students can be gifted with grants and scholarships.

Many people spend their whole lives trying to pay off



environment may have an effect on how students test. Sitting in a quiet classroom with other students might build anxiety, and then the test might not go so well. Some students are good test takers and others are not; it really just depends on how good a test taker a person is and how they cope in stress-

ful situations. Students try hard all year with projects, tests, and quizzes, so why do they just need to take another big test? Students might not remember all the material and might have to take time to reteach them themselves in a short amount of time.

A major thing about final exams is that if an individual does badly, it tanks the grade because it's worth such a large percentage of the grade. Not all students are good test takers, and it creates so much stress and anxiety towards the end of the semester or school year.

Sophomore Claire Smith thinks that "final exams should not be used in high

school because they stress students out. Students who have learned the material might have forgotten what they have learned, and if they don't do so well, their grade drops, and all the hard work from all year kind of erases if your grade tanks."

Clearly there are different opinions on whether final exams should be in high school. It is a very controversial topic. Exams are a good way to prepare students for the future and teach responsibility. Exams can also be stressful to the students and can drop semester grades. This leaves people to ponder, "Should final exams stay in high school or be removed?"

student loans. According to AAUW, Americans owe a total of \$1.7 trillion in student debt (federal and private), averaging around \$30,000-\$40,000 per borrower for bachelor's degrees. This is affecting many Americans, especially women and people of color who often face larger

burdens. Debt levels vary by institution, but the high costs force many people to borrow.

Luckily, at Indian Creek High Students, students are offered a program enabling them to do their first year of college while in high school. This ICC program, where high school students take

college courses and earn college credits through Indiana University in Bloomington allows students to take a whole year's worth of college courses without having to pay for them. This way students will be in less debt and will have more of an opportunity to attend college.

FOR THE RECORD



By ADRIANA WEST
Opinion Editor

Exploring Different Genres

Everyone has a favorite genre and subgenre among all of the many different types of media, whether it is fantasy or true crime for movies, or poetry or fiction for books. It's safe, and it's comfortable.

Is something always being reliable the best option?

Exploring genres is important because it keeps your brain involved. Every genre is something new that can be unlocked.

Horror movies can be exciting and make you think and follow clues to who the killer is, while science fiction makes you think about the "what ifs."

Romance is slow-paced and makes people feel hopeful and nostalgic, and it's a total 180 from thrillers and the anticipation that goes along with it.

When you switch and play around with different genres, you can learn to become flexible and more open to other things in life.

Genres hold perspective. If you only read dystopian novels, the future may seem bleak. If you only watch thriller and mystery movies, you'll think everything has a reason, which can lead to being more curious.

If you step into non-fiction or historical fiction, you can and will learn about the events that have taken place in the real world.

Maybe even watch a documentary and find out how different cultures live today.

It's important to learn to adapt to other things in life, whether it be watching a different type of movie, learning a new language, or solo-traveling to a foreign country. The wide variety can later on help you adapt to life, whether it be culturally or socially. There's always something new to learn or do.

Sticky Situation

Post-it Notes Take Flight in New Classroom Trend

By: HANK SEITZINGER & ISAAC SMITH
CREEK CURRENT REPORTERS

In early November of 2025 kids in classrooms all across the U.S. were becoming obsessed with the simple creation of folding little post-it notes into darts and throwing them into the ceiling. People online were growing their following by posting tutorials on how to make and fold them. As the trend grew, more kids learned how to form them, and would continue to post videos of the ceilings completely covered with darts.

As the trend took flight at IC, more teachers began to catch on, and rules were formed against the trend. Students were beginning to have punishments such as detention, and teachers were even threatening as far as in-school suspension.

The ceiling dart primarily works by maintaining a sharp tip all throughout the fold. When throwing the dart, the creator pinches it with opposite pointer fingers, flips it upside down, and flings it up to the ceiling.

If a dart is removed from the ceiling, there is no

visible mark left in the tile whatsoever. However, some kids weren't able to get an ordinary dart to stick in the ceiling. Therefore, they started adding sharp things such as staples to the tips of the darts. This is where most chill teachers would draw the line, lecturing kids on how that could be dangerous.

On the other hand, there were the teachers who happened to be much more strict. These were the teachers who would end up reporting students for the simple darts with no kind of sharp or pointy end to the dart. Thus, beginning to gain popularity to the principals who finally decided there needed to be higher punishment if there was any way to stop the students.

Now that the punishment has become in-school suspension, kids have completely stopped doing any form of the darts.

Many kids fell in love with this simple hobby and were devastated by the ban of the darts. Not only did it give students something fun to

do when they finished their work, but also it was a way to bring kids together who would have never become friends in the first place.

Now, there definitely are limits when it comes to having pointy tips and sharp objects, but for the simple folding of paper this hobby is most definitely harmless. Therefore, it is unnecessary to have a complete ban.

The IC administration explains that the darts could create more work for the custodians if they were to fall and could also be potentially dangerous.

When asked about his thoughts on the ceiling dart ban, sophomore Atticus Smith explains, "Ceiling darts should come back in 2026-2027 because it adds a good vibe to our school as well as it being fun activity with my friends."

Smith is one of many students who found the hobby and made it as large of a trend as it was. Possibly one day with proof of it being harmless, the trend will return. As of now, the ban still stands, and there are no future plans of the trend coming back.

THE FINAL POLISH



By JENNA ROETHEMEIER
Editor-In-Chief

Protection Not Punishment

A stricter cellphone and device ban is officially coming to Indiana schools after governor Mike Braun signed Senate Bill 78. This bill requires school corporations and charter schools to adopt and use a wireless communication device policy that states students can't use devices such as cell phones, tablets, laptops, gaming devices, and some smart-watches. Students will not be able to use their devices at all during the whole school day, including passing periods and lunch.

Senate Bill 78 has schools choose between two policy methods. First, the no-device policy states students are not permitted to bring wireless communication devices to school. Second, the storage policy says students may bring devices to school, but they must be stored away, powered off, and completely inaccessible throughout the entire school day.

Before July 1, 2028, educational use may occur on a school-supplied device or a device approved and filtered by the school. After June 30, 2028, instructional use can only occur on school-supplied devices. Students can only use a device if it is included in an individualized education program, included in a Section 504 plan, needed to manage a documented medical condition, or in case of an emergency (authorized by superintendent or designee).

Having a school phone ban is reasonable, but the law should stay the same as it is now. Kids not being able to have their phones on school property is absurd as emergencies may occur. Many students drive to school and them not having their phones could end very badly. Phones may be a distraction but they are needed for students safety.

Brave Babble

Creek Current reporters asked these ICHS students:

"Should ceiling darts be banned?"



"No. They're fun."

Colton Stinson, 10



"Yes, because they're getting overwhelming and making a mess."

Jovan Lopez, 10



"No, because it keeps people occupied."

Kelsey Campbell, 10



"Yeah, because it's not allowed and you'll probably go straight to Wallace."

Noah Wilson, 9



"No, because it's fun."

Gavin Zeigler, 9



"Yes, because it makes a mess."

Mattie Guyer, 9