

# The Paw Print

IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL • VOL. 17 • ISSUE 1 • NOV 2021

## PawCast Goes 'Live'

By Clara Rushton

The Paw Print is more than just a student newspaper. It's a website, a series of podcasts, and most recently PawCast Live, a live streaming channel that features live broadcasts of Irvington sports, such as volleyball and football.

The expansion of The Paw Print Online ([www.ihspawprint.com](http://www.ihspawprint.com)) to include more multimedia content has been a consistent goal, but thanks to a grant from the Irvington Education Foundation for a mobile podcasting studio and some recent technology purchases, the Paw Print is primed to provide students with a variety of new multimedia content.

"This year, the Paw Print is working on lots of improvements and new features for our online presence. The PawCast, the multimedia arm of the Paw Print, is busy producing content, including podcasts, live commentary, and social media videos," said the managing editor for Paw Print Online, senior Josh Chang.

The Paw Print began its foray into multimedia in 2013 with the launch of The Paw Print Online. Podcasts were added in 2019, with the first two episodes featuring a discussion of dress codes and teen vaping, hosted by then-sophomore and current editor in chief Dani Heller and then-junior (class of '20) Laila Zukerman. Despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic, the PawCast continued the following year with four more episodes.

An IEF grant awarded this summer allowed for the purchase of professional equipment, including a Macbook Pro with pre-installed software including GarageBand, two pairs of headphones, and desktop acoustic partitions. This mobile podcasting studio is currently housed in Mr. Williams' classroom in H203. In addition to the PawCast podcasts, the mobile studio will be available to teachers and students to use for class projects in other disciplines.

"This equipment will allow for more authentic experiences with technology that 'real world' journalists and podcasters use, as well as a potential resource for teachers

(continued on page two)



Ms. DeFilippis took over as our new assistant principal this year.

## New Member of the Team

By Lindsay Mosberg

At the end of the last school year (2020-2021), the district announced the appointment of a new IHS assistant principal, Michelleann De-Filippis.

Although new to the position of Assistant Principal (AP), Ms. De-Filippis has a lot of experience working with children. Previously she worked at Ossining High School as a special education teacher, curriculum leader, and social studies teacher, and also worked in a BOCES program.

Ms. DeFilippis had not always planned on going into the field of education. After working in various jobs such as Outreach at Yonkers, with the Children's Village doing HIV testing, and at the Sanctuary in White Plains (a shelter for runaway kids), she was told by one of the girls in the shelter "you would make a really awesome teacher." She never forgot what that child said to her. This led Ms. DeFilippis to discover her passion for teaching.

Eventually, she quit her job and enrolled at Manhattanville College to pursue a graduate degree in social studies and special education.

After transitioning from a high school teacher to AP, she said that a hard part was not always being in the classroom teaching students.

"Education is so different. As an educator you are able to interact with kids and watch them grow."

She explained how educators watch students walk through the doors, not totally comfortable and confident with their surroundings, and end the year with a whole new level of confidence to the point where they are pushing themselves to try more.

**"We will figure it out together. Tomorrow is another day, and there is always another day to make amends for what happened."**

In her role as AP, Ms. DeFilippis has many responsibilities including observing classes, overseeing 504 meetings, organizing the PSAT with the guidance department, and building relationships with students.

She believes that an important focus of the year is crafting and establishing relationships, and to create a space where students feel valued and heard.

Her goal is to make sure everyone walks away feeling safe and valued.

"I see you. I value you, and think that you are an important part of this community," she said.

She wants to have an open door

where students come to her for reasons other than a disciplinary issue

"Let's have a conversation. Let's talk this through before it becomes an issue," she said.

She thinks it is important to be proactive instead of reactive, and to see where students are currently and how she can support them so that reactive situations are limited.

Outside of school Ms. DeFilippis coaches her middle school daughter's soccer team. She also enjoys reading books by her favorite author, James Baldwin. Baldwin would be the "one person dead or alive" that she would want to meet."

She loves his writing for multiple reasons, particularly how he looks at the world – his perspective on things and how we can see the best of who we are even when we cannot see each other.

She also likes the optimism in his writing as well and how it displays how one experience can shape you.

Ms. DeFilippis wants students to know that she is funny and uses humor in everything she does.

"I just want to have fun. Sometimes you just have to laugh. What will be, will be," she said.

"We will figure it out together. Tomorrow is another day, and there is always another day to make amends for what happened."

# News

## Irvington Bans Marijuana Dispensaries in Village

By Josh Chang

The Irvington Board of Trustees voted unanimously on November 1st to prohibit marijuana stores and lounges within the village. The move was a reaction to New York State's new cannabis legalization law passed in March.

The cannabis law gives municipalities until December 31st, 2021 to outlaw marijuana dispensaries and lounges, if they so choose. Once that date passes, municipalities who haven't opted out permanently lose that power, and those businesses will be permitted to open and operate indefinitely.

"We expect to opt out of the New York State cannabis law allowing dispensaries and lounges in Irvington," said Mayor Brian Smith during a Board of Trustees meeting on October 13th.

"You can always opt back in, but you can never opt out if you don't before the end of the year."

Trustees seem open to revisiting the opt-out law at some point in the future, once there is more data on the effects of dispensaries on nearby communities.

"Ardsley has already opted out, but Hastings and Dobbs Ferry are leaning towards not doing anything and opting in, so we will have two test cases very close by," said Mayor Smith.

At a Board meeting on September 20th, public comments largely encouraged trustees to ban dispen-

saries. Danielle Gamar, a licensed clinical social worker and the Student Assistance Counselor at Irvington High School, spoke in favor of opting out, citing the impacts of dispensaries on the use of marijuana by kids.

The state's legalization law allows only those 21 years or older to buy or consume marijuana, but she is afraid it will find its way to teens, just as with alcohol.

"13- to 17-year-old youth living close to dispensaries and exposed to marijuana advertisement were more likely to report their intent to use marijuana," said Ms. Gamar, citing research from the *Journal of Addiction*.

"Young adults living within a four-mile radius of a dispensary were more likely to use marijuana, were more likely to use heavily, and experienced more problems related to their use."

Those who supported opting in said that it would be economically beneficial. Of the 13% sales tax on the sale marijuana, the state takes 8% and the county takes 1%. That leaves 4% for municipalities.

In Irvington's case, that portion would be further split between them and the Town of Greenburgh, but if marijuana sales are high enough, it could still bring meaningful revenue to the village.

Proponents of opting in also said it would bring in tourism, further boosting the economy.

Sophomore Amanda Berry said her Chromebook experience "hasn't been amazing."

"I struggle at times to connect to the wifi," she said. She too prefers her other personal device.

She said, "I think it is good we all have the same device, but it comes with its cons."

Barrachin and Berry both said that their Chromebooks last two to three days without having to be charged, although both use them just a few times a day, and not typically at home.

Next school year, incoming freshman will receive their own chromebooks as well.

This will continue in future years, meaning that next year's seniors (current juniors) will be the last grade at IHS without personal Chromebooks.



## @IrvPawCast (cont.)

(continued from page one)

and students interested in creating multimedia projects and assessments," said Paw Print advisor Mr. Williams.

Currently, the equipment is being used to produce a weekly announcement podcast and the main news feature podcast, entitled The PawCast (follow @irvpawcast on Instagram). In the first episode of The PawCast this year, hosts Lexy Downes and Dylan Harrison discuss the college application process. The PawCast has also launched PawCast Live, which will provide live streaming and commentary of Irvington sports and events. To date, PawCast Live provided live commentary for a sectional volleyball game on November 1 and the homecoming football game on November 5, with plans in the works to join with Local Live streaming broadcasts to provide additional coverage of Winter sports.

Currently, many newspaper students are getting the chance to work on podcast episodes. Emma Jee, who is currently on the PawCast weekly announcement team, hopes the podcast will expand by live streaming more sports.

"Dylan and Lexy have been doing an amazing job running the PawCast podcast and Instagram, including a helpful premiere episode on the college process that makes me excited about what's to come," said Chang. "Emma and Harlan [Flamm] have also been rocking it on a new weekly news podcast that gives a summary of everything going on in Irvington in just a couple of minutes."

Downes, co-host of the feature PawCast podcast, is excited to see what the staff can do with the medium as they become more comfortable with the equipment and editing.

"The Pawcast has been a great creative outlet for me and I get to have fun while getting to learn about the process of producing and voicing a podcast," said Downes. "It never feels like true work, and I think that Dylan and I make a great team because our energies feed off each other, and we push each other to do the best we can."

The newspaper, originally titled The Village Green, endured a long hiatus and was only published periodically until it resumed regular publishing in 2005 under its current name *The Paw Print*.

## IHS Issues Chromebooks

By Scarlett Downes

This 2021-22 school year, Irvington implemented 1:1 Chromebook usage for 9th and 10th graders.

Both grades have experience in the past using personal school-issued Chromebooks from middle school. For 9th graders, it is their third consecutive year using them.

Freshman, Linnea Barrachin, said that her experience with Chromebooks has been okay, but she would rather use her other personal device that she uses at home.

Barrachin said that she uses her Chromebook about two to three times throughout the school day.

For 10th graders on the other hand, it is their second year using Chromebooks. They all used them in 8th grade; however, when given the choice, many chose to use their own personal devices from home last year.

## Bus Driver Shortages

By Stuart Graeber

The bus driver shortage certainly did not start because of COVID-19, but the pandemic's long lasting effects have certainly amplified the problem.

On top of that, the beginning of the new school year has increased pressures for the local and state government to figure out a solution to the issue.

The current number of school bus drivers in New York is 15% to 20% below full staffing, according to estimates and with nearly two million students needing school transportation each day, something has to change.

Many believe the shortage is related to the growing online shopping market, which has lured many drivers for more lucrative careers in truck driving goods from stores like Walmart, Target or Amazon.

"The shortage of bus drivers this year has resulted in delayed pickups for both our team, as well as many of our opponents," said Irvington athletic director John Buonamano.

If this issue continues, the future of school transportation could change drastically, and could ultimately lead to the cancellation of student activities, field trips and sporting events.

# Arts & Culture

## Is Modern Rock Even Rock?

By Anton Dedvukaj



Today, we're here to talk about some big news: rock and roll is back on the charts! Well, kind of.

Tons of musical trends have taken shape in the late

2010s, but one that many critics and fans alike seemed disappointed in was the decline of rock music on the Hot 100. Whenever it did chart, the scene was often dominated by a couple big hits from one or two acts at a time,

such as Twenty One Pilots, Imagine Dragons, Panic! At the Disco, or by random indie rock acts who scored one big radio hit and would rarely see the Hot 100 again.

However, the rock charts are no longer so stagnant, in large part because of a rule change implemented by Billboard. In June 2020, the Hot Rock Songs chart was rebranded as Hot Rock & Alternative Songs. With this title change came eligibility rule changes, where songs that were considered "alternative" also got chart placement.

At first, many of these songs seemed way off from what rock radio traditionally played. Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodrigo, and The Kid LAROI are among the artists who now have rock number-one hits thanks to this rule change, despite not being traditional rock artists.



To find out which of these songs can be considered rock, I reached out to a select group of rock fans at Irvington High School (juniors Ben Hymowitz, Theo Levin, Will Leitner, and Zach Schwartz). I

mentioned a few songs that have or had success on the rock charts, and asked them whether or not they considered these songs a part of the rock genre.

**24kGoldn ft. iann dior – "Mood"**

With 35 weeks at number one, "Mood" is easily the biggest hit the rock charts have seen since the rule change. However, many argue that it doesn't fit on the chart that it dominated for so long.

Hymowitz says, "'Mood' is not a rock song aside from the guitar groove," while Levin says that "it's

more of a rap song with guitar in it." Leitner says he "can't imagine how [it] is considered rock," and Schwartz agreed, pointing to the fact that there are "no live instruments playing in the song."

**Machine Gun Kelly & blackbear – "my ex's best friend"**

Following Machine Gun Kelly's pivot from rap to rock in 2020, this song became a massive hit and reached number two on the rock charts. Levin believes that it's earned its place there, to a point.

"I'd say it's a rock song, but it definitely incorporates a lot of rap [and] pop elements, especially during blackbear's verse."

Others, however, disagreed. "Makes sense that this is considered rock, but I definitely wouldn't call it that," says Leitner, who believes that it "has rock elements but [seems] more hip-hop influenced."

Schwartz argued that the beat was "electronic" and "not rock-like," while Hymowitz quickly dismissed the argument that this song is rock.

"'my ex's best friend' is nowhere

near rock, it's alt."

**Taylor Swift – "willow"**

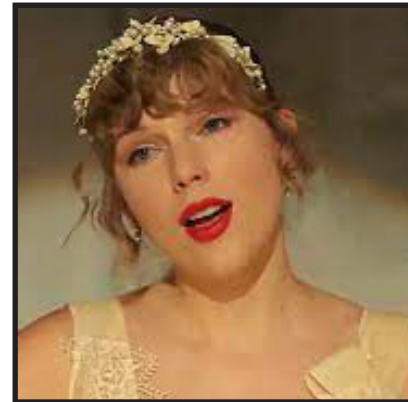
Taylor Swift released two albums that were branded as "alternative" during the pandemic. As such, "willow" debuted atop the rock charts following the release of "evermore." However, many argue that it has no place on a rock chart.

"The guitar picking, acoustic instrumentation, and the soft vocals cement this as a folk song for me," Levin said, before admitting that he understands why one would call it alternative.

Leitner called the song "folk [or] country" and said it "doesn't even have elements of rock or a

rock influence," and Schwartz considered it "too soft and calming" to be rock music.

Hymowitz was more charitable, saying that he would consider it "folk rock, like Fleetwood Mac. Not really [rock],



but still under the rock umbrella."

For more rock-not rock reviews and more Mic Drop, check out all the articles on The Paw Print Online: [www.ihspawprint.com](http://www.ihspawprint.com).

## From Broadway to the Big Screen

By Jordyn Eckers

From Broadway hit to the big screen, *Dear Evan Hansen* is a story of a high school boy battling anxiety, depression, and the impulse to pathologically lie.

DEH won six Tony Awards, one for Best Actor in a Leading Role, given to Ben Platt, who now also stars in the movie. With a very talented and star-studded film cast, more attention was brought to the story than there had ever been on the Broadway stage.

I got to see *Dear Evan Hansen* at an advanced screening at the 92Y, along with a panel afterwards with some cast and team members. I thought that although there are some questionable elements to the story, it was more enjoyable than the reviews are making it out to be. Yes, there are obvious issues, but altogether it has a good message that everyone should hear.

From 2016-2020, I was a major contributor to the noise around *Dear Evan Hansen*. I had seen it on Broadway six times, and was a

huge fan of the stage cast, including Platt. Therefore when it was announced that Platt and Colton Ryan (whom I had seen as Evan Hansen my first time) were the only two Broadway cast members included in the film I was disappointed.

But in saying that, Kaitlyn Dever (known for her role in *Booksmart*) and Amandla Stenberg (*Hunger Games*) fit their roles perfectly, along with Amy Adams, Julianne Moore, and others.

The main issue of the film is that you have to ignore Platt's age. As a 28 year old playing a 17 year old, his age is much easier to ignore when watching on a stage in the theatre than when you see him up close on the big screen. Although I am a huge fan of his, I do have to admit that it was very difficult to get past how old Platt looked.

Although his father was also a contributor to casting, you cannot deny how incredibly talented he is. He did an amazing job continuing the role that was his real big break, and although he looked old, he por-

trayed the essence of Evan very well.

The director Stephen Chbosky is the author and director of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012), and it is clear to see the common theme of his work: teen mental health. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a fan favorite, beautifully showing a classic high school coming of age realistically. *Dear Evan Hansen* is a musical approach to the same idea that still makes the audience cry.

But the difference between the two is that while you feel an incredible amount of empathy for Charlie in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, you feel none of that same empathy for Evan Hansen.

In the end, it is impossible to support him, making the ending feel very disingenuous, especially when the story isn't self-aware enough to recognize that the audience will not be in on the support of Evan.

Another aspect of the film that didn't sit right was the antagonism of the exact audience they wanted to reach.

The message of the movie is that mental health issues can affect anyone, even the "popular kids" and you should treat everyone with empathy and understanding.

A new song was added to the film to emphasize this, which was an immense addition to the already incredible soundtrack. And although the message is clear, the film vilified the stereotypical "jocks" and "popular kids," showing them as insensitive and downright mean.

If they were trying to reach these high school kids as their audience, why would they paint them out to be so horrible?

While the stage cast had only eight cast members, I felt as if they better portrayed the story's message than the film. I will never get the feeling of seeing the story unfold in front of you while surrounded by a thousand others.

The message of *Dear Evan Hansen* is one that will touch anyone who watches, but saying that, the stage production was able to present the story better.

# Editorial

## Better Together, Irvington Strong!

### The Editor's Corner

Dear IHS Students,  
Masks seem to be here to stay for the short term, but we are surely on a path towards normalcy.

Although there were many bumps in the road, we have come a long way in the past 21 months.

We might still not be able to see the smiles of our peers, but gone are the obstructive barriers and screens that long infringed on our ability to complete basic human interactions.

We can now communicate freely, without frozen screens or cut out audio. We can now sit in class and have a teacher's full attention, without watching them toggle between students in the classroom and on the screen. We can now participate in extracurricular activities, without the constant worry of putting our loved ones' health in jeopardy.

We have endured so much in the past two years, and I have no doubt that this will only make us more prepared for whatever else life throws our way. We never thought that we would be so eager to be in

school every day, but the past two years have completely changed our point of view.

So many norms have been re-imagined, and all parts of our lives have been turned upside down.

Aside from missing out on many pivotal teenage experiences, all

grades were faced with loss as an effect of the pandemic.

The current freshmen missed out on the long-awaited overnight trip to Washington D.C. The current sophomores transitioned into high school without even knowing what the inside of the IHS building

looked like.

The juniors have only been able to experience eight months of a "normal" high school year. Seniors had to determine where they wanted to apply to college without benefiting from in-person tours.

As much as this pandemic has taken from us, it has also taught us more than we could ever learn in a math or science class. It has taught us how to deal with uncertainty.

Regardless of all that was changing in the world around us, we managed to maintain friendships and keep up with classwork.

It taught us how to appreciate ourselves and our family as we were contained to the confines of our homes.

It gave us time to explore hobbies and interests that we otherwise would not have had time to.

These challenging learning opportunities have provided us with the skills necessary to thrive as the world continues to open up again.

Sincerely  
Dani Heller  
Editor in Chief



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Additional Contributors: IHS Paw Print Club



## Are the Enclosures Worth the Costs?

By Harlan Flamm

Enclosures around the campus blocking off open areas such as the quad were a surprise to the student body when we came back to school in early September. Some students who enter the school by Field Point discovered that they had to go all the way around the science wing to get to the high school, while others realized that getting to the quad was now more difficult.

However, the enclosures wouldn't be built if they didn't have a clear purpose or upside. That's why I talked to IHS principal Ms. Juliet Gevargis-Mizimakoski, about why the school decided to construct these enclosures.

"The enclosures are really meant for protection," Ms. GM said. "After the Parkland shooting, we needed to find a way to preserve the college campus type experience that we have here at Irvington, but also ensure safety for students and staff."

She added, "This isn't something that was passed in the last year or two. It is a large capital project that was voted on and has now come to fruition."

It is clear that the main reasoning for this infrastructure is to keep students and staff safe from potential intruders.

Now that's a good reason to put

up enclosures, but is it worth the huge cost and inconvenience that it comes with? I would argue that it is not.

The first reason is that even though the barriers may delay dangerous intruders, it is not going to stop them. This is because there are many unlocked doors throughout the building that an intruder could easily walk through, allowing them to get to the quad where many people congregate for lunch or a free period.

Of course the school could get a previous warning and lock all doors, but not all incidents have a warning. The Parkland shooting's perpetrator was a former student, not a criminal on the loose. How could the school have had a previous warning?

While a determined criminal will be able to get in the building with the barriers, students who are outside have a huge inconvenience when it comes to entering the school.

The unlocked doors that I mentioned above are only located in a few places, and people entering school from alternate entrances such as Field Point have to walk all the way around the school. When faced with this kind of inconvenience, the upside should be worth it, but unfortunately that is not so with the new barriers.



The enclosures have created new hallways. (photo by Dani Heller)

Finally, Ms. GM mentioned that the new barriers were a huge capital project for the school. This means that the district spent a lot of money (over \$2.3 million to be exact) on putting up the new enclosures.

This is money that could have been spent on more immediately impactful projects such as improving the school's technology.

Despite the flaws of the new enclosures, Ms. GM said "This is a safety measure for all of our students and staff on the campus, and it is new. With anything new it

definitely poses challenges to the student body. However, I want everyone to be patient and realize that this is for all of our sakes and well being."

Overall, the enclosures are to keep us safe. However, this increased safety had a cost and poses an inconvenience on students and staff. Only time will tell if the enclosures are worth the flaws that they come with.

Feel free to say your opinion about the new enclosures in the comment section below.

## Should We Call Teachers by Their First Names?

By Dani Heller

This year, for the first time in my school career, a teacher, Ms. Julie Ippolito, has gone against the norm in the Irvington school district by allowing her students to refer to her as her first name.

This has been a large adjustment for Julie and her students, and some of her previous students have still been unable to adjust to this new standard.

Julie, formally known as Ms. Ippolito, was first introduced to this idea when her daughter's school allowed all students to refer to their teachers by their first names, and has adopted this method ever since.

I think that this is an extremely successful approach that can ultimately have a positive effect in the overall vibe within a classroom.

The fact that she allows her students to call her by her first name demonstrates a level of respect that she has towards her students, which could potentially foster a more accepting learning environment.

Typically, we are taught that teachers are supposed to be the authority figures in the classroom, but Julie hopes that by allowing students to be on a first name basis levels the playing field.

"When there's one person in the room that's being referred to by a title, that's separating that person from the rest of the group. By eliminating that boundary, I'm hoping to eliminate that barrier and foster some mutual respect and inclusivity in the classroom."

Julie hopes that this change will allow her to become more of a partner with her students, and it seems that this new policy is already seeing benefits.

Sophomore Ciara Lyons said that referring to her teacher by her first name "makes it seem more like a friendly relationship and less of a dictatorship in the classroom."

"It's more democratic and makes me feel more willing to participate in the classroom."

Overall, it's difficult for me to

find a downside to this modification. Students are encouraged, not forced, to conform to this change, so students are still able to call Julie Ms. Ippolito if they feel more comfortable. However, this change is reflective of the respect that Julie has for her students, and will hope-

fully encourage her students to reciprocate this same level of respect.

While Julie is still the only teacher that is advocating for this change among her students, I'm curious to see if the effectiveness that has resulted in her classroom will encourage other teachers to do the same.



# Irv Eats

## Hudson Prime Has Found Its Home in Irvington

By Ben Hymowitz

Walking into Hudson Prime Steakhouse, settled in on North Buckhout Street in Irvington, I was immediately intrigued by the sophisticated decor, which resembles a Michelin Star restaurant.

Micheal, the co-owner, seated us at our cozy table. Our waiter, Zeke, greeted us with a kind and caring nature.

When we looked at the menu, we saw a plethora of steaks, appetizers, salads, and sides. For our appetizer, we ordered the Thick Cut Bacon, which is broiled with a bourbon honey glaze and topped with fried rosemary.

This bacon is not like your usual diner style bacon, but it's somewhere between a regular strip of bacon and a ham steak. The dish has the "snap" you look for in a nice piece of bacon, but the texture and chew of a ham steak.

For the next course, we had the Porterhouse Steak for Two. The steak is a 32-ounce house dry aged behemoth, optionally served with your choice of sauces. We went with the steak sauce and Bearnaise. A Bearnaise sauce is made by emulsi-

fying clarified butter, egg yolks, and white vinegar.

For the sides, we ordered the creamed spinach and hashbrowns. We only had to wait about 20 minutes for the piping hot dish to come out.

The steak was served on a sizzling platter, and propped up on a small bread dish to let the jus flow to the bottom of the plate. The steak was a perfect rare and was as tender as could be. I hate to use the term "melt in your mouth", but it did just that.

For dessert, we ordered the crème brûlée, which is served with a torched sugared top and fresh seasonal berries

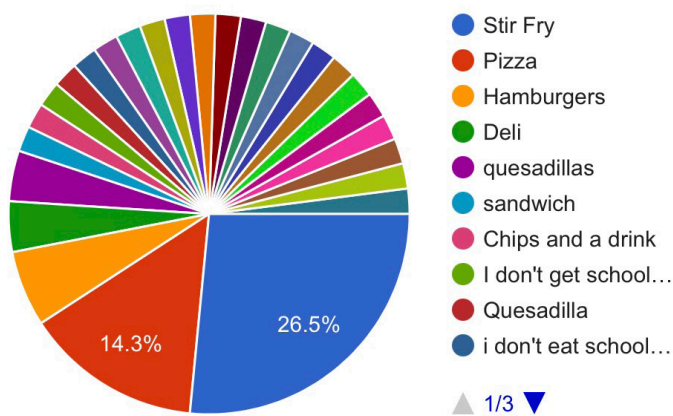
The service was outstanding, constantly filling up our glasses, changing our silverware between courses, and bussing the table in a timely manner. Zeke made sure to check in on us frequently which made us feel comfortable.

My final thoughts on Hudson Prime are that I will be returning to this fine establishment soon and that this is only the beginning for this very inviting place. I think that it's found the right home here in Irvington.



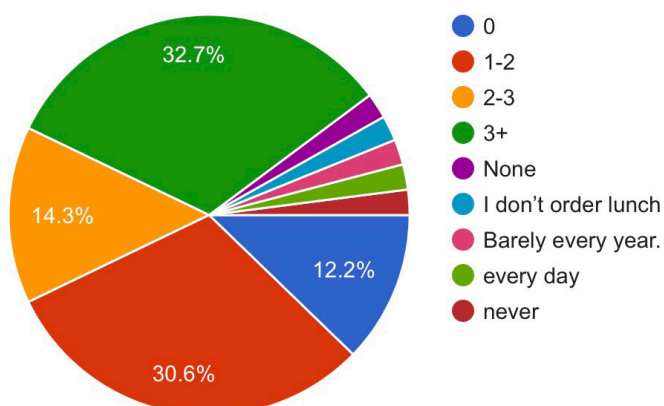
### What's your favorite school lunch?

49 responses



### How many days a week do you buy school lunch?

49 responses



## Stir Fry Voted Best School Lunch

By Ben Hymowitz

In the past week, *The Paw Print* surveyed the Irvington High School community on various aspects of our cafeteria.

We got a tremendous amount of responses, and we thank everyone who has participated in this poll. Here are the responses:

Our first question was "What is your favorite school lunch?"

The most popular choice, at 27.7% is the famed stir fry. Stir fry is a favorite school lunch due to the flavor and freshness of the food.

Next, at 14.9% is pizza. Both the pizza and stir fry are really solid options if you are going to buy lunch at school.

Third place was an even split between hamburgers, deli sandwiches, and quesadillas.

Thirty-three percent of the people that participated in the survey said

that they bought lunch at school over three times a week, while 12.5% said they bought lunch zero times a week.

When asked how many days a week students ordered from outside of school, 35.4% of students said that they ordered out one to two times a week, but only 22.9% said they ordered zero times a week.

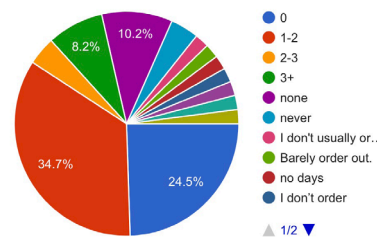
Some common suggestions made by students for improving the cafeteria are the inclusion of more salads and opening up the deli and stir fry earlier so that students don't have to wait in long lines.

An interesting suggestion that one student gave was that they would like "real authentic stir fry."

The final consensus is that the cafeteria definitely has improvements to make, but the students seem to be satisfied with the quality and selection available.

### How many days a week do you order out?

49 responses



# Sports

## Bleachers Bring New Life to Student Section

By Isaiah Boyles

As the Bulldogs' successful fall season has come to an end for all sports, one thing that we can say for sure is that this season felt different.

As a perfect compliment to our outstanding fall sports teams all around the board, the newly installed bleachers brought the student section atmosphere to the next level.

More and more students came out to support their fellow Bulldogs, and veteran student section leaders didn't disappoint when it came to getting the crowd up and loud.

Because the old bleachers were somewhat unstable, it was difficult for our students to stand up and really pack in together as one student section.

Senior Andi Bushati — someone you'll never see the student section without — shared, "The bleachers were able to hold more students, which means more noise. This led to a way more electric student section.

It brought more excitement this fall, and I expect it to do the same in the future."

Not only was it easy to notice the difference by simply looking at the crowd, but the athletes being cheered on could most definitely feel the difference as well.

Varsity Boys Soccer captain Harrison Krieg stated, "The bleachers immediately changed the atmosphere of the games" and followed with "No game I've played in in the past compared to the energy I felt at some of the games I played in this season."

Through themes and school chants, the new bleachers brought students together this year after a fairly disappointing string of seasons last year due to COVID protocols. As we continue trending in the right direction, I believe it's fair to assume that the new bleachers will be bringing the same energy and more to the student section for our sports teams in the spring.



## Player Spotlight

By Lindsay Mosberg

Meika Tomita is an 11th grade varsity athlete. For two years, she has been a member of the girls varsity volleyball team, and has run track for two seasons.

On the volleyball team Meika is an outside hitter. She described it as an all around position where she is passing, serving, blocking, and hitting from a defensive as well as a left front position. In her latest game she had 9 kills, 3 aces, and 14 digs.

Girls varsity volleyball has won 15 games and lost four, and they are currently the 2nd seed in Section 1 Class B girls volleyball.

The varsity team consists of 9 close knit girls. Many have played together for a long time going back as far as the 8th grade. Last year they won the league championship for the first time since 1996.

Meika's most memorable moment this past season occurred

when Irvington played Albertus Magnus High School for the second time. During their first game, Irvington lost, but their next match gave a different result.

"We beat them in three."

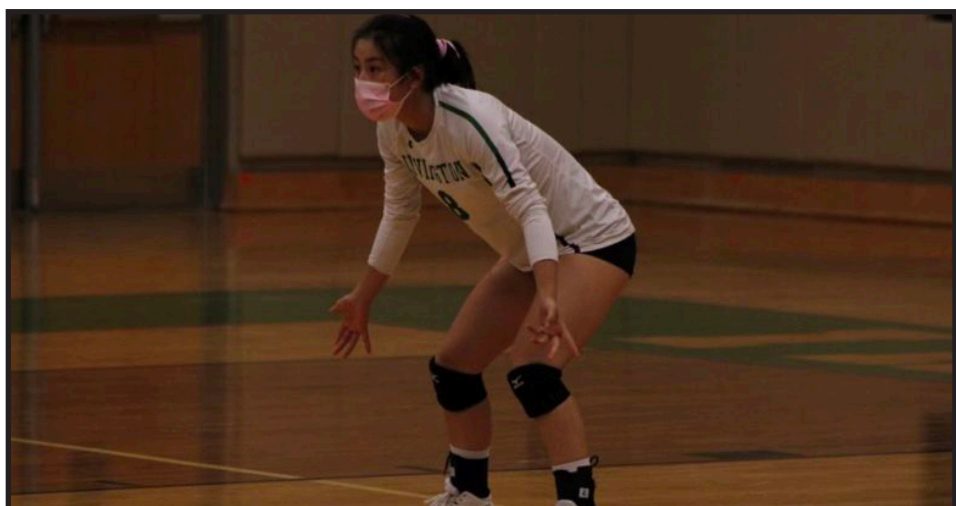
Meika described it as a fun game because Irvington got to show their rival "how much we improved over the course of time."

Meika also explained the positives of playing volleyball. She said it was a "fun sport", and while there was "a lot of technical stuff to learn, once you have the foundation there is so much you can do."

She said that every play is different, so you are always on your toes giving you a lot of adrenaline.

"There is a lot at stake but you get such a high reward when you win."

When asked what she enjoys most about volleyball, she talked about the friendships she has made and how close the team is, and that it is not just a sport, but so much more.



## Two Bulldogs Commit to D1 schools for 2022-23

By Elise Harcsar

A couple of Bulldog athletes will be taking their talents to the next level next year after committing to play for Division I teams.

Senior Sara Gavagan committed this past fall to play Division I soccer at the University of Maryland - Baltimore County (UMBC).

Gavagan has demonstrated leadership at Irvington as captain and goalkeeper of the girls soccer team, as well as having an impressive season. This past season, she marked a milestone of 300 saves, and reached the Class C semifinals with her team.

Gavagan expressed love for being a part of a team that supports one another, and is excited at the prospect of building more of these relationships on a college team.

"Every team that I've played on at Irvington has been so supportive and building those relationships showed me how much I love being part of a team and really fueled my desire to keep playing in college."

Playing at Irvington has given her the support of her community which motivates her as she plays.

"Just knowing that everyone is behind you and is cheering you on is such a special feeling."

Leaving Irvington, Gavagan keeps a hold of special memories from being a part of the community including a memorable save she had.

"Saving a penalty kick to preserve the 4-0 shutout we had over Briarcliff at homecoming was probably my favorite moment of my high school career."

Another athletic commitment recently made was by senior Liam Sawian for Division I track and field at Lafayette College.

Sawian shares what he looks forward to most with being committed to a Division I school.

"The opportunity to compete at the Division I level along with all its perks, and to keep pushing my athletic potential."

Sawian also recognizes his appreciation for Irvington, which has surrounded him with support from his teammates and coaches.

"We have a high quality track program with teammates who are all willing to work hard and an amazing dedicated coaching staff."

A memorable moment Sawian had was during the New York State showcase where he broke a school record.

"Breaking the school record for the 3x110m hurdle relay with Max Forte and Jaleel Moody at the NYS showcase [was memorable]. Max and Jaleel were like my coaches and my brothers at the same time on and off the track. They taught me a lot of what I know in the sport."

# Sports



The Bulldog boys cross country team are 2021 State Champs!

## State Champions! Bulldogs Finish Strong

By Elise Harcsar  
and Matt Weidler

### CROSS COUNTRY

The boys cross country team came into the season with very high hopes. Their goal was a sectional title and that is exactly what they have done. But they also raced past that goal, and raced by the competition, to win a state title this year.

This is the first state championship in school history for cross country and it is very well deserved for Coach Barry who has done so much for this program over the years to get it where it is.

Lucas Turano had a career race and led the team in this one followed by Liam Lyons and Brice Pierce. Pierce continued his hot run recently and was followed by Indy Minkoff and Ryan Carron. It has been a great season and is not done yet. The boys will race at Federations this Saturday November 20th.

In the sectional meet, the boys were led by Lyons and Turano who secured fifth and sixth place, and would have been going to states on individual qualifications either way.

Pierce was another guy who stepped up after missing a few races due to injury, stepping in and running his best race of the year. Many people had Briarcliff as the favorites, and while some saw Irvington

winning nobody thought it would be in the dominant fashion it was.

The girls team has also had an impressive season as they came in with a fourth-place finish at the sectional meet in Bowdoin park on Saturday, November 6th.

Lulu Forte led the way for the girls grabbing 10th place, just missing an individual bid to states.

### BOYS SOCCER

After a long hard-fought season for the varsity boys soccer team, the Bulldogs fell one win short of a section title, losing to Westlake 2-1 in the finals on Saturday, October 30th at Lakeland High School.

The disappointing loss came after a great win against Briarcliff in the semifinals which left the boys feeling confident for the final against Westlake.

Unfortunately it just wasn't their day and even after a very impressive season with a regular season record of 14-1, they couldn't find a way to advance past the section finals.

Nevertheless, it was an amazing season and the team will go down as one of the best boys soccer teams Irvington has had.



### VOLLEYBALL

The varsity girls volleyball team lost in three straight sets, 3-0, against Our Lady of Lourdes in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals after an impressive regular season.

The girls ended their season with a record of 14-4 after managing to put together an 8-0 start to the season.

Unfortunately, they couldn't come away with any hardware, but their success this year definitely left the program trending in the right direction for next season.

### GIRLS SOCCER

This past season the varsity girls soccer team finished with an impressive record of

14-2.

After defeating many of their Class B opponents, including the other Class B powerhouse and league rival Bronxville, Irvington was determined to claim a section title.

On October 28th, the girls took on Briarcliff during for the Class B semifinals game. After a tough 80 minutes, they were ultimately sent home after a final score of 1-0.

Despite this, girls soccer has tallied another impressive winning season and will look forward to competing for a Section 1 title next

year with several returning players.

### FIELD HOCKEY

Varsity field hockey ended their season with a 10-3-3 record after a tough penalty shootout loss to Pleasantville.

At the end of regulation, Irvington was tied with Pleasantville with a 1-1 score. This score held true through double overtime and penalty shots where it came down to a final score of 2-1, resulting in Irvington's defeat.

After another great season, the returning players will look to continue steering the program in the right direction and work towards another winning season.

### FOOTBALL

Varsity Boys Football ended their season with a 5-5 record, including a win on their rescheduled homecoming game on November 6th against Blind Brook.

The spirit of homecoming was revived with the parade up to the high school and tons of school spirit through the halls leading up to the game.

Their homecoming game ended in a 15-6 win against Blind Brook. This victory was live-streamed, which also featured live commentary and can be found on The Paw Print Online.