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THE COUGAR TIMES

INNOVATIVE ARTS ACADEMY

VOLUME 2



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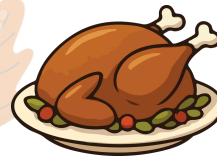
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BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Families and Community,

It's been an exciting start to the school year here at Innovative Arts Academy! Our students continue to make us proud, both in and out of the classroom. Our focus remains on creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every student can reach their full potential. This year, we celebrated the kickoff of our Girls Volleyball season, and the team's energy, teamwork, and school spirit have been incredible to see. We also have started our second season of our ESports team, giving students another great opportunity to compete, collaborate, and showcase their skills in a growing field. Currently the ESports teams (there are two this school year) are doing very well and have had a lot of success, keep up the great work.

We're proud of all our students for their hard work, leadership, and dedication. Thank you to our teachers, coaches, advisors, and families for supporting them every step of the way.

Sincerely,
Mr. Pidgeon
Principal, Innovative Arts Academy





CELEBRATING IXL SUCCESS

We're so proud of our students for starting the school year strong in Math and ELA! Their hard work, focus, and dedication on IXL have already set the stage for an amazing year ahead. By actively practicing and challenging themselves on IXL, students are building essential skills, gaining confidence, and setting personal goals that will help them succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

It's incredible to see students taking ownership of their learning, celebrating milestones, and supporting each other along the way. Keep shining, pushing your limits, and striving for excellence — this is just the beginning of your success story! ✨ Here's to a year full of growth, achievement, and amazing accomplishments!

PEOPLES SECURITY BANK VISITS PERSONAL FINANCE

Peoples Security Bank visited all of our Personal Finance class to introduce students to the wide range of banking options available to them. Their interactive presentation gave students valuable insight into real-world financial tools, from checking and savings accounts to budgeting tips and digital banking. Students left with a better understanding of how to manage their money and the confidence to make smart, informed financial decisions for the future.



Senior Snapshots



Senior Sunrise



Senior Photos



Catty Park Trip



CEDAR CREST COLLEGE VISITS IAA

A representative from Cedar Crest College visited our school to speak with students about planning for college after graduation. They shared information about the programs and opportunities the college offers, as well as the scholarships and financial aid options students may be eligible for. The visit gave students valuable insight into the college experience and helped them take the next steps toward achieving their academic goals.

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Representatives from the U.S. Army visited our school to speak with students interested in alternative paths after graduation. They shared valuable insights about the benefits and opportunities that come with serving in the Army, including education, training, and career growth. Their visit helped students gain a better understanding of military service and make informed decisions about their future.



Senior Shoutout: Michael Soto

"Michael, I am so proud of all the hard work you've put in these last 4 years. You are an amazing and artistically talented student—always willing to help and always so welcoming. I wish you the very best during your senior year. Keep up the incredible work!

— Ms. Vasquez" ❤️❤️

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Want to submit a senior shoutout? Email your nomination to nvasquez@IAAcslv.net.



SENIOR SZN

HOMECOMING WEEK



Homecoming Week 2025 Recap

The week of November 3–7 was filled with school spirit as our students took part in Homecoming Dress-Down Week. Students participated in daily themed dress-downs for just \$1, showing off their creativity and school pride while supporting future events.

music, dancing, and memories with friends. Congratulations to our 2025 Homecoming royalty:

👑 Queen: Brianna Martinez

👑 King: Reny Sanchez

Thank you to everyone who made Homecoming Week so memorable!

The week wrapped up with the High School Homecoming Dance on November 7—a night full of



BASKETBALL



Basketball Tryouts

This month, our Middle School and High School athletes brought their energy and talent to basketball tryouts. Students showcased their skills, teamwork, and dedication as coaches evaluated players for the upcoming season.

A special thank-you to our coaches for leading the way:

- Boys High School JV: Mr. Blount and Mr. Blount
- Boys Middle School: Mr. Maxsim and Mr. Maldonado

Congratulations to all who made the team! We're excited for a great season ahead and can't wait to cheer on our IAA athletes.

ESPORTS COACH PROFILE: MR. PEDONE



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START COACHING ESPORTS?

"In college at Bloomsburg University, I was part of a Super Smash Bros. team. We traveled to colleges and game stores on weekends, and it was some of the most fun I've ever had. I met new people, made friends, and gained a lot of perspective. I want my students to have those same experiences—meeting new people, new cultures, and competing outside of IAA."

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING WITH IAA STUDENTS?

"Seeing their growth and their celebrations. Many students come to school more often because of Esports. They're coming out of their shells and expressing themselves in ways that don't always show in the classroom. They're making lifelong memories, and I'm honored to be part of that."

WHAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT COMPETITIVE GAMING?

"Competitive gaming requires far more focus than most people realize. It's truly a battle of the minds—communication, patience, and problem-solving are constantly tested. I've seen huge growth in my students across both Smash and Marvel Rivals."

WHAT'S YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A COACH?

"I'm proud of every win this season, but I'm even more proud of how far we've come in such a short amount of time. Our Esports Program launched less than a year ago, and the students have shown incredible dedication after school."

Congratulations to our Esports teams, Super Smash Bros. and Marvel Rivals for making playoffs!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE VIDEOGAME?

"My favorite game is The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild because of the open world and the memories tied to it. My favorite competitive game is Super Smash Bros. It has everything—strategy, spacing, bait-punish, and long-term game plans. I've been playing it since I was a kid."