

Ishpeming School District No. 1

319 East Division Street
Ishpeming, MI 49849

Dr. Stephen L. Piereson
Superintendent
Phone: (906) 485-5501



Anthony Bertucci
Business Manager
Fax: (906) 485-1422

January 22, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I want to write to you to provide you with a midyear report on several items in our schools.

Teacher of the Year

C.L. Phelps School computer teacher Heather Swanson has been named the District Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Swanson is noted for her work in developing the computer instruction program and for bringing the Rachel's Challenge character education program to our schools.

I.H.S. Named as One of America's Best High Schools

Each year U.S. News & World Report conducts a study of high schools in the United States. The 2009 study ranks Ishpeming High School as among the best high schools in the United States with a bronze award. Ishpeming High School is the only ranked high school in Marquette County. This is yet another indicator (along with high graduation rate, great test scores at all levels, extracurricular options, scholarships) of our high quality schools.

District Web Site

School information is posted on the district web site at: www.ishpemingschools.com.

Highly Qualified Teachers

Federal and Michigan statutes require that all teachers meet the "highly qualified" standards. All Ishpeming teachers have met the "highly qualified" standards for the grades and subject matter that they teach.

School Safety

We continue to emphasize school safety and security. All school employees have been subject to a Michigan State Police/Federal Bureau of Investigation background check via electronic fingerprints. In order to rapidly identify employees, all school employees

wear a photo identification badge. We have worked with the Ishpeming Police Department to have uniformed officers randomly visit the schools so that there is visible police presence.

Bus Inspection

All of our buses have been inspected by the Michigan State Police. We have been notified by the State Police that we have a 100% pass rate. Every bus meets the State Police inspection standards.

Board of Education

The Board of Education holds regular meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. The meetings are held in the Ishpeming High School library and are open to the public. Periodically, the Board holds special meetings that are announced in the news media.

Junior Kindergarten Young Fives /Kindergarten Registration

Junior kindergarten young fives/ kindergarten registration is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2010; Thursday, March 4, 2010; and Friday, March 5, 2010. Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2010, should call Secretary Melissa Corkin at the Birchview School at 485-6341.

Scholarships

Ishpeming High School seniors have access to more college scholarships than our neighbors combined. There are 41 college scholarships that are open only to Ishpeming High School students. In addition, there are some 30 scholarships and loans that are open to Ishpeming High School students as well as to students from other schools. We also have a low interest loan program open only to Ishpeming high school students. The Alumni Association is working on a campaign to support even more scholarships for I.H.S. students. In a time of escalating costs for higher education these scholarships are invaluable.

Project Newborn Rock & Read

Every Monday morning the Project Newborn playgroup for preschool children meets at the Birchview School gymnasium from 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. There are games, reading activities, and refreshments. Early childhood specialists are available and I.H.S. Key Club students supervise the children. For additional information, contact Superintendent Stephen Piereson at 485-5501.

State Mandated Michigan Merit Curriculum

In March 2006, the Michigan Legislature and Governor enacted laws that establish the mandatory Michigan Merit Curriculum for all public high school students effective with

the Class of 2011 (the current sophomore class). By law, students must complete the state mandated Michigan Merit Curriculum in order to graduate.

The state mandated high school graduation requirements include:

English	4 credits	
Mathematics	4 credits	Must include Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, plus 1 additional credit
Science	3 credits	Must include Biology, Chemistry or Physics, plus 1 additional credit
Social Studies	3 credits	Must include Civics, Economics, American History/Geography, World History/Geography
Health/Physical Education	1 credit	
Visual/Performing/Applied Arts	1 credit	
World Languages	2 credits	Begins with the Class of 2016

Schools will also have additional credit requirements to receive a high school diploma.

If you have questions on any of these items, please feel free to call me at 485-5501.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Piereson
Superintendent of Schools

SLP/cmb

cc: Board of Education