

THE WEEKLY WORD

Aug. 27, 2021

IWA Students Take Advantage of STEM Opportunities



One of the things we're most proud of at IWA is our rich STEM curriculum. We offer 24 different science, technology, engineering and math courses, seven of which are AP courses. We love providing these opportunities for our students. Earlier this week, science department chair, Ms. Christine Westman sent a note to our school community informing us that we have an unprecedented number of juniors and seniors who have decided to "double up" on their science courses. Thirty-seven percent of the Class of 2022 is taking two science classes this year, while 42% of the Class of 2023 is doing the same. "I began keeping track of this three years ago and each year the percentage has continued to increase," said Westman. "I commend these young women for their willingness to challenge themselves as they follow their interest in STEM courses. I'm also proud to work alongside colleagues, both past and present, who have inspired and encouraged our young women to fearlessly pursue their dreams."

Important Dates

Saturday, Aug. 28

- Cross Country - Woodlands Christian Cross Country Series #2

Tuesday, Aug. 31

- Volleyball vs. Faith Academy (Home) 4:30 (JV) and 5:30 (Varsity) p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 1 and 2

- 2021 Margil Yearbook distribution (both lunches)

Wednesday, Sept. 1

- Parent meeting for students participating in athletics 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 2

- Volleyball vs. Awty International School (Home) 4:30 (Freshman), 5:30 (JV) and 6:30 (Varsity) p.m.

Friday, Sept. 3

- All-School Mass: 8:00 a.m. (Red Mass Day Schedule)

Saturday, Sept. 4

- Cross Country - John Cooper Invitational; Burroughs Park, Texas

Monday, Sept. 6

- Labor Day - No School

Tuesday, Sept. 7 - Friday, Sept. 10

- Spirit Week (See details below)

Tuesday, Sept. 7

- Volleyball vs. Second Baptist School (Away) 4:30 (Freshman), 5:30 (JV), 6:30 (Varsity) p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 9

- Volleyball vs. Duchesne Academy (Home) 4:30 (JV) and 5:30 (Varsity) p.m.

Please see our [school calendar](#) for a comprehensive list of school events. It is updated regularly.

A Note About Falcon Fridays

Falcon Friday are every Friday during the school year *when we do not have an all-school Mass or a special event requiring the Mass uniform*. On these days, students may wear their IWA uniform skirt with a school spirit, or club or organization T-shirt. Dismissal on Falcon Fridays is at 2:45 p.m.

NOTE: You can find this information, as well as other details about IWA, on our [Current Families page](#) on the website.

Spirit Week is Coming!

Show off your Falcon Pride Sept. 7 - 10! We have several fun activities planned and will share more in next week's Weekly Word. In the meantime, look for:

Sept. 8 | Way Back Wednesday

Girls may dress in their favorite decade.



Sept. 9 | Classification and Pep Rally Day

Girls will dress up by classification according to the themes below.

Seniors: Senior citizens

Juniors: JOLLY Juniors (Christmas)

Sophomores: Super Sophomores (Super Heroes)

Freshman: Fishy

Freshmen and Sophomores, Let's Dance!

Saturday is the Orientation Dance at St. Thomas High School, our brother school just up the road. This dance is for freshmen and sophomores only. Here are [details about the dance](#), and [here are some helpful directions](#) about getting to the St. Thomas campus.

As a reminder, our Mothers' Club is hosting a social for freshman and sophomore parents that evening. Moms and dads, drop off your daughter at St. Thomas, then join our Mothers' Club at We Olive and Wine Bar from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m. for wine, light bites and to meet your fellow IWA parents. [You must RSVP here to attend!](#)

Class Spotlight: Forensic Science



A crime scene at a school is not something to celebrate. Unless, of course, it's a crime scene devised by forensic science teacher Christine Westman. She left a trail of evidence in Room 318 on Thursday, all designed for students in her third and fifth period Forensic Science class to practice sketching the scene and using their reasoning skills to determine what happened. One of our popular science electives, this year-long course allows students to have hands-on opportunities like this, and demonstrates how their knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics can be put into practice. We'll share more about this unique course in the Fall/Winter issue of The Word magazine.

Covid-19 Safety Assemsbly



We're so grateful that Dr. Fernando Navarro, one of our IWA parents, gave of his time on Monday to talk to our school community about the current Covid-19 conditions. He reinforced the necessity of wearing masks, and answered questions about vaccines and more.

From our Insta

Dr. Daponte teaches Honors Engineering and on-level and Honors Physics. He turned our second-floor corridor into what we lovingly called "Falcons Lanes" this week, using bowling to teach our students about acceleration and

velocity. Dr. Daponte is new to our Falcon Family, and we're loving his creativity!

Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to see all the great things our students are doing.



Sharing Their IWA Stories



Visiting eighth graders and IWA Falcon Ambassadors play a get-to-know-you game prior to tours on Friday.

Eighth grade tour started this week, with dozens of students from Catholic schools around Houston visiting our downtown campus. Our Falcon Ambassadors were there to greet them. This team of students serves as tour guides and event planners, working with our Office of Admissions to showcase how special our school is. We are so proud to have these young women represent us to the next generation of Falcons!

Athletics

Cross County Finishes Strong at Woodlands Christian Invitational

Our cross country team placed fifth in last Saturday's Woodlands Christian Invitational Series #1. The Falcons will be back up north for tomorrow's Woodlands Christian Invitational Series #2. Good luck, ladies!

Photo by Hannah Koepp '22



All parents with daughters participating in sports must attend this meeting on Sept. 1 at 6:30 here at IWA. It for parents of students who are currently participating in a sport or who intend to participate in one during the 2021 - 2022 school year. For more information, contact Rick Perez at rperez@incarnateword.org.

Following In Her Footsteps



With contributing photos from Alexandria Alvarez '22

Incarnate Word Academy parents were on campus Thursday night for our annual Follow Your Daughter's Schedule Night event. It was an opportunity to meet their daughters' teachers, as well as find out about the exciting things happening across our curriculum. "I wanted to learn more about what my daughter is doing in her classes," said Steve Smetna, father of Isabella Smetana '22, sitting in Mrs. Jennifer Calabrese's philosophy elective class. "She really likes delving deeper into topics." Our faculty shared their excitement about teaching and their love of our students. "I love teaching your daughters," Mrs. D'Arby Garza told the parents assembled in her AP Chemistry class. "They are such a motivated group." That sentiment was shared by Mrs. Karen Douglass, our math department chair, as she was speaking to the parents of her Honors Algebra II class. "They are such great question askers," She said. "And I want to be sure that they know these concepts not just for a test, but for life."

IWA Snapshots



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul hosted its 2021 National Assembly in Houston this week at the Marriott Marquis. On Thursday morning, the IWA Choir was invited to sing for the assembly's morning Mass. We were honored to have them do so.

*Have a submission or story idea for The Weekly Word? The deadline for submissions is **every Tuesday at noon**. Send submissions and ideas to communications@incarnateword.org.*

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