

October 2019



Important Dates

- October 4: [Leadership Form](#) Deadline
- October 7 & 8: Video Crew Filming at IA
- October 9: Coffee Q&A with Alan Hahn (High School parents)
- October 15: Elon College Visit
- October 16: PSAT for 11th Grade
- October 18: End of Q1
- October 18: Blade Maintenance Day
- October 19-21: Stone Mountain Camping Trip
- October 19-22: Fall Break
- October 22: Teacher In-Service Day
- October 23-25: Intensives for 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grades
- October 24: College Planning Night
- October 30: Warrior Challenge
- October 31: Challenge Coin Ceremony

School News

Intensive Days - October 23-25

Intensives are coming up in October, and we are excited about the opportunity for our students to embrace new skills outside the classroom.

Sixth grade will participate in Orienteering from our long-time friend and ex-Navy Seal, Mr. Shoemaker. They will learn how to read topography, use a map and compass, build a fire, and will spend their last night camping outdoors as a class. Students always enjoy this intensive!

Our 7th graders will have an intensive on Life Skills. They will learn outdoor skills such as how to change a tire, how to cut down branches from trees, and how to change the oil in a car. They will also learn inside skills including how to properly do household chores. They will spend one full day on learning how to manage finances, including the importance of saving money, and how to set financial goals. We are excited about spending quality time with our 7th graders, and echoing the training they receive from

you at home.

Eighth graders will spend their intensive days unplugged. We feel a strong call to disciple our eighth grade class and teach them how to connect on a deeper level. We encourage 8th graders to cut out all screen time from phones, computers, etc. during this period, as we teach them how to relate with each other outside of Snapchat! The major focus of this intensive will be living life in a Biblical *community*. Continue to pray for these young men, as each year, we find 8th grade consistently presents as a year of great spiritual, emotional, and physical growth.

Our 9th and 10th graders will use this time to focus on college and career planning. We will have guest speakers coming in to talk about resume and life planning. Mrs. Manning, our College Counselor, will also be administering career and personality tests to help our young men learn more about themselves to see what field might be a good career fit for them. More information on this week can be found in Mrs. Manning's newsletter, below.

MATURING ACHIEVING NURTURING (M.A.N.) TRAINING

Iron Academy implemented a new training program (M.A.N. Training) for the middle school this year. Each year of middle school brings its special challenges and opportunities. Accordingly, the IA M.A.N. Training targets each grade differently.

- Sixth graders get an entire year patiently devoted to building executive function skills (e.g., how to use a planner effectively, which books to take home, creating homework strategies, setting and achieving goals, organizing a locker, storing homework properly, exercising self-control).
- Seventh graders receive similar instruction in the first semester but transition to focusing more on honor-code living and relationship-building in the second semester, as chemical and physical changes turn them into creatures much more like eighth graders than sixth graders.
- Eighth grade! This is often the hardest year for parents of young men! These young men are progressing rapidly through an uncomfortable, albeit necessary, transition in their bodies, their brains, their hormones, and their relationship with God. Though some of them might still benefit from executive training, the Iron community needs them to focus on who they are as individuals and how they interact with their immediate community. They are questioning their faith, pushing mom away (must do this respectfully), and looking for weaknesses in their teachers. All of this is natural and healthy. They must be shepherded carefully through this year. While none of us has any “control” over the decisions they reach about their faith, we all have a vested interest in helping them “survive” the eighth grade ready to thrive upon entering high school. We find young men who own their relationship with Christ after this eighth-grade struggle do indeed thrive in high school. Parents, this too shall pass!

M.A.N. Training at Iron Academy is more than a clever acronym. It is a time for young men to grow in God-honoring ways from elementary boyhood to becoming veritable young men. Iron Academy M.A.N. Training. Together, we build men!

College Corner

Kersey Manning, IA's College Counselor, will hold college planning meetings on October 24th. Underclassmen IA families can join her at 6:00pm for Early College Planning, and then at 7:30pm she will be holding the Junior College Planning Night for 11th grade families. Mrs. Manning recommends students be in attendance.

October 2015, Volume 4

 College Counseling Newsletter

COLLEGE AND CAREER INTENSIVE
WHAT SHOULD OUR 9TH AND 10TH GRADERS EXPECT?
 On October 23rd, 24th, and 25th, all 9th and 10th grade students will find themselves enrolled in a College and Career Planning Intensive with me, the school counselor! Even though college and careers can feel very far away at this early stage of high school, there is a lot that can be done in terms of planning and exploring.
 Over the course of three days, students will have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers talking about everything from college planning to military recruitment. They will also have fun self-reflecting through various career and personality assessments.
 The essence of our five days together will be a mini project. Outside of school, students will be asked to interview one individual about their career and the pathway that led them there. The students will have class time to compile the information they learned with their own research to create a short presentation for the class. My goal is that each of the young men in my intensive will walk away having explored various opportunities their future may hold and will have a few action steps they can begin taking now to reach those future plans.

FASFA Opens TODAY - October 1st
WHO SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA?
 Any senior who will be attending a university or community college during the 2020-2021 school year should fill out the FAFSA. Even if you don't feel your family would qualify for government grants, it is often a requirement to be considered for a college's merit-based scholarships.
 Apply for free at: fafsa.gov
 If you have questions, take advantage of their easy and helpful chat feature!

Upcoming College Planning
 October 1 - FAFSA Application is LIVE
 October 1-5 - Sign up available for meetings with 10th and 11th graders
 October 15 - Early College Visit during lunch
 October 23-25 - College and Career Intensive for 9th and 10th graders
 October 24, 6:00 pm - Early Planning for College Night
 October 24, 7:30 pm - Junior College Planning Night
 November 15 - Signup available for meetings with 10th and 11th grade students. Signup available for afternoons/evening meetings with 11th grade parents.

Upcoming Testing
 October 9 - Register for Hon. SAT
 October 9 - SAT Test day
 October 16 - IA administrators PSAT
 October 26 - ACT Test day
 November 4 - Register for Dec. ACT.
 Register for Dec. SAT.

OCTOBER PARENT NIGHTS
WHAT SHOULD AN UNDERCLASSMAN OR JUNIOR BE DOING TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?
 In September, I was fortunate enough to spend an evening with our seniors and their parents at our Application Kickoff Night. Now that our seniors are well on their way to completing their college applications, it is time for me to turn my attention to our juniors and underclassmen. On October 24th, I will be hosting two great parent nights! At 6:00pm, I will be meeting with all of the underclassmen parents to discuss early planning for college, and at 7:30pm I will attach the conversation to focus on junior college planning. I highly encourage students to attend with their parents. While the night will be highly informational, bring your questions. I look forward to seeing you all there.

IA Happenings

Camping at Stone Mountain

Raise you hand if you are excited about our Stone Mountain camping trip!!! We can't wait! The trip is October 19-21. Almost 70 people are planning to attend. It will be a great time of fellowship with our Iron students, staff, and families!



Senior Fundraisers



\$10 per bale
 Delivered and Spread
10 bale minimum order

PINESTRAW
 Fundraiser for
 Senior Class Trip

Orders: Oct 1-20
 Deliveries: Oct 25-27 & Nov 1-3

IronAcademySeniors.wordpress.com
 reply@ironacademy.org
 919-977-8811 ext 0

Our seniors will be busy fundraising this Fall for their senior trip to Israel. They will be selling pine straw, pre-ordering Christmas trees, and hosting another BBQ dinner. Please support our seniors as much as you can so they can continue to raise money to put towards their trip. More info on each of these events can be found at ironacademy seniors.wordpress.com. Senior parents, make sure you are in the GroupMe text group so you are up to speed on the fundraisers and trip planning.

Staff News

A Note From Alan Hahn

Every year we need to raise money to cover the substantial gap between tuition and fee revenue and the cost of everything we do to operate Iron Academy. Most of this money comes from people outside Iron Academy. Last year, for instance, we raised roughly \$200,000 from people in the community who genuinely believe in the Iron Academy calling. We are planning two fundraisers for the outside community in the Spring of 2020. Both events are relatively small in comparison to our normal Stakeholder Celebration (the house is unavailable in 2020).

Will you consider helping me with the spring 2020 fundraising events? We need creativity, connections, energy, and organization. If you would like to help, please let me know. Thank you in advance for your help!

From the Desk of Coach Mitchell

The **varsity soccer team** is off to a great start! They have jumped out to a 2-1-1 record in the conference, with 6 different players contributing goals. Solid leadership, including Jon Anderson, Stone Kiker, and Stephen Anderson, along with some new, young talent, have led to the start of a promising season. Often playing with no subs, Coach Trower has them supporting each other and playing as a team. The conference season is in full swing so make a point to get to a game and experience the excitement!

Following the CAASC State Playoffs and championships in mid-October, the Fall sports teams will celebrate their seasons at the Awards Night on Tuesday, October 29th. The Winter sports season actually begins on Monday, October 28th after school. If your son wishes to wrestle, or try out for the MS or Varsity basketball teams, they must have a current physical on file and must be in good academic and conduct standing.

Our **track teams** are going strong. At the last race, there were 10 teams competing. For the HS race, there were 39 runners. With a great effort by all 5 guys, along with Isaac's first top 5 finish, IA finished in a strong 3rd place! I believe all of them improved their 5K times! All of them: Isaac, Ben, Stephen, Logan, and Zach are overcomers! For the MS guys, we were blessed to have Caedmon back with us and added Steve. The race was officially 2.25 miles. What a wonderful sight to look up and see our grey IA uniforms coming in one after the other! Led by Steve, in his first race, and Teddy and Everett right behind him, we filled up the top group. Graham also squeezed into the top 15. With Vova and Justin showing strong improvement and Elijah and Caedmon powering through injuries (as did Stephen in the HS race), these guys showed the true strength and heart of Iron Academy. Oh, and the final scores for the MS..... IA, for the very first time, finished **ON TOP!!!** A total team effort brought home our first 1st place finish! What a testimony our guys showed! Did you also notice at the start of the HS race when the runners were on the line praying? Our guys were arm in arm and Isaac reached out and included his opponent next to him. I was so proud to have the same school name on my shirt as these 13 young men. I am loving this journey!!

Go Swordsmen!!

Tips from the Front Desk

The front desk staff have a few housekeeping items to keep you in the know!

The first relates to security at the school. Iron upgraded security measures this year and we now keep the front door locked. There is a doorbell to the right of the door. To get in the school, simply stand in front of the door, ring the bell, and we will view you through the glass and unlock the door. When you hear a "click" that is the signal to open the door and come in. It's that easy! In addition to the front door,

we have also installed emergency doorstops and blinds in each room to quickly secure the building in case of an intruder. We are obviously hoping to never need them, but I think we all recognize the importance of safety precautions in schools in this day and age.

The second thing from the front desk staff is just a quick update that RenWeb has a new owner, and they will be changing their name and branding in the near future. The new name will be FACTS. The impact on us should be minor, we simply wanted to make you aware of the name change in case you see the new name in place on your apps or computer in the coming months.

And finally, we want to make sure you know you can "subscribe" to specific sports teams to get up to date practice and game information automatically populated on your calendar. Information on how to subscribe is on the [Athletic](#) page our website. Click on the season of your sport, choose your sport, and there will be a link to subscribe. Let us know if you need assistance.

Iron Parent Fellowship News



The IA Warrior Challenge October 30!

Get ready, get set, GO! Our annual Warrior Challenge is coming up this month. The competition will be from 1-3PM at the school. Parents and friends, please plan to attend and support our Swordsmen!

The IPF Fundraising committee is seeking parents to help with collecting awards and prizes, assist with the day-of preparation and set up, and event activity monitoring. For more details or sign up to help, contact: [Karen Sabo](#) or [Debbie Drew](#), or catch Debbie during during pick up.



Visit our Website