

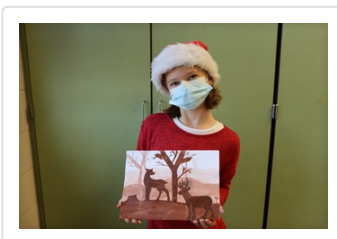
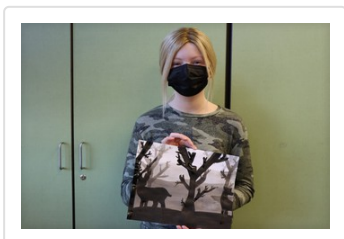
ISD Insider

Your Source for Independence School District News

December 2021

Little Blue 5th Grade Students Create Winter Masterpieces

Fifth grade students at Little Blue Elementary created winter masterpieces using watercolors in art class. Students learned all about using different color values in the foreground, middleground and background to create these beautiful paintings. View all student work [here](#).



Mill Creek Elementary Students Provide Meals to Families in the Community

Mill Creek Elementary raised money during a spirit week to purchase groceries for families in need this holiday season. Student Council members shopped for the groceries and filled each bag with shelf-stable food items. Student Council then presented the bags to Community Services League. See the pride on their faces as they give back to their community here:



Sycamore Hills Student Council Crafts Cards for Children's Mercy

Sycamore Hills Elementary School student council members crafted more than 30 cards for patients at Children's Mercy. Take a look at their creativity and holiday spirit as they spread kindness throughout Kansas City here:

Sycamore Student Council Spreading Holiday Cheer to Children's Mercy Patients



ISD School Psychologist Launches Thoughtful Tee Thursday

ISD School Psychologist Rio Corbin launched Thoughtful Tee Thursday at the beginning of the school year with the help of Van Horn Assistant Principal Melissa Romero and At-Risk Coordinator Julie Crowell. What started as a trend transformed into a movement, spanning across several ISD schools. Every Thursday, teachers, staff and students wear tee shirts with messages of kindness, encouragement and hope. Hear more about Thoughtful Tee Thursday [here](#).



ISD Partners with Hazel Health

The Independence School District is partnering with Hazel Health to expand our student health services. Hazel offers virtual doctor visits accessible from the school nurse's office for PreK – 12th grade. By gaining access to this tele-health service, many minor visits can be initiated by an ISD nurse in order to obtain a diagnosis without missing a day of learning. Parents will be notified prior to any virtual visit. ISD families can opt-in to Hazel [here](#).



Free and Reduced Meals Application

Please submit a Free and Reduced Meals application to ensure continued funding to support all students in our district. The completion of this application is one way funding is determined for the school district through the state. You can fill out an application [online here](#) or call 816-521-5371 with any questions. Although free breakfast and lunch is available for all ISD students through the end of the 2021-2022 school year, submitting an application can increase funding to support all ISD students for things like district-provided dental, vision and mental health services, discounts on fees for ACT, SAT and AP courses and discounts on college application fees. Thank you for supporting your student and our district!



ISD Mask Policy Update

All students and staff within the Independence School District will be mask optional upon returning from Winter Break in January. Per a federal order from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, masks are required for everyone ages 2 and up, in an indoor setting, in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Masks must still be worn on school buses, per [federal order](#). The ISD will continue to offer both in-person and virtual learning options. You can find all ISD health and safety protocols [here](#).



Looking Ahead in the ISD

December 22 - January 3 - No School (Winter Break)

January 14 - No School (Staff Professional Development)

January 17 - No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

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