



# Nighthawk News

Vol. 2 Issue 1  
September 2023

## Ironwood Ridge High School

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
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SUPERINTENDENT  
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## Message From the Principal: Dr. Oranté Jenkins

September is the month of  
**CREATIVE THINKING.**



If you are not familiar with our Portrait of a Graduate, please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the characteristics, traits and skills we hope each of our graduates develops upon graduation from Ironwood Ridge High School. This



month, IRHS is promoting and celebrating Creative Thinking amongst our students. At IRHS, our students learn to use a “wide range of techniques to generate, develop and evaluate ideas. Students are encouraged to take creative risks, follow curiosities and put their ideas into action. Imagination, creativity and innovation are valued, and are considered vital to achieving growth that reaches across all academic disciplines.”

Creative thinking is the process of considering situations from innovative perspectives and developing an open-minded mindset. Using creative thinking allows you to generate new ideas, interpret situations, identify themes and design alternatives to existing modes of operating. Being a creative thinker involves trying to find new ways to approach existing situations and finding value in diverse mindsets, methods and theories. It also allows you to make connections between concepts and find similarities between vastly different situations. Benefits of creative thinking include:

- **Building confidence:** When you use creativity and have the opportunity to explore different avenues of thought on your own, you can become confident in experimenting with new concepts and thinking for yourself.
- **Developing knowledge:** Because creative thinking encourages people to experiment and innovate, it develops the collective knowledge base that humans have about different ways to achieve goals and create specific outcomes.
- **Releasing stress:** Using creative thinking and allowing yourself to be imaginative without restrictions can be a great way to relax and release stress.
- **Promoting emotional intelligence:** Creative thinking encourages people to think about situations from multiple points of view, which can grow your ability to empathize with others and be emotionally intelligent.

While some people are naturally creative, anyone can become a creative thinker by investing in skills that promote creative thought!



## WELCOME NIGHTHAWK 2023-24 ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



My name is Emily Rios and I am honored and excited to be joining Ironwood Ridge High School as Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction. I look forward to getting to know IRHS students, families, faculty, staff and community members as we work together to provide the best education and school community experience possible. I have more than fifteen years of educational leadership experience, having previously worked in the Tanque Verde, Tucson Unified, and Palm Spring Unified school districts. I am a lifelong learner and hold a dual degree in History and Spanish from UCLA, a Master in Latin American Studies from the U of A, and a Master of Educational Leadership from NAU. I am also proud to have served as a Community Educator with the US Peace Corps in Mozambique, Africa. In and outside of work, one of my favorite things is meeting new people and building strong and genuine relationships built on mutual trust, respect, and kindness, so please stop by and say hi any time.

My name is Patricia Harris and I am very excited to return to Ironwood Ridge for a third year, this time in my favorite position: Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. I have had the honor of working with outstanding athletes, great coaches and supportive parents and look forward to continuing this at IRHS.

Serving as an administrator at all three of our district high schools has given me a great perspective on how to promote good teaching, good coaching, and a positive experience for students and parents. My door is always open, please feel free to stop by anytime. If I am not in the office Penny Neisius, Athletic Assistant, is also ready to help. I have been lucky to work with Penny at all three schools and she knows just about everything!



My name is Rowdy Frederiksen and I am excited to become part of the "Nighthawk Nation". I am moving to IRHS from Holaway where I have served as the principal for the past 4 years. Prior to working at Holaway I was an assistant principal of a middle school in Illinois for five years. As a classroom teacher I had the pleasure of teaching at the upper elementary and middle school level. My wife and I loved the desert and the outdoor activities it provides for our family and decided to move to Tucson. We have three young boys that attend Cross Middle School and Mesa Verde Elementary School. We love being part of the Amphi family. It is my hope that I can partner with our entire Ironwood community to help students discover their talents and passions. Our students are the future and we must never forget this. The quote by Sir Ken Robinson sums up my pursuit in education: "To enable students to understand the world around them and the talents within them so that they can become fulfilled individuals and active, compassionate citizens."



## SAVE THE DATES: UPCOMING TESTING

### ASVAB Testing Dates for Sophomores:

- \* Last Names A-G will be 9/23
- \* Last Names H-O will be 2/7
- \* Last Names P-Z will be 4/11
- \* All other students who are interested should contact Mrs. Rios



### PSAT Registration

- \* Registration will begin mid-Sept. for Juniors
- \* Test Date: 10/24 from 9am-1pm
- \* Cost: \$25 in the Bookstore
- \* Space is limited to 175.
- \* Freshmen and Sophomores will be able to sign up if there is space available.



### Civics Test:

- \* 10/16 - 10/20 in Junior History Classes
- \* Seniors who need to take the exam should contact Mrs. Rios



## IRHS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM



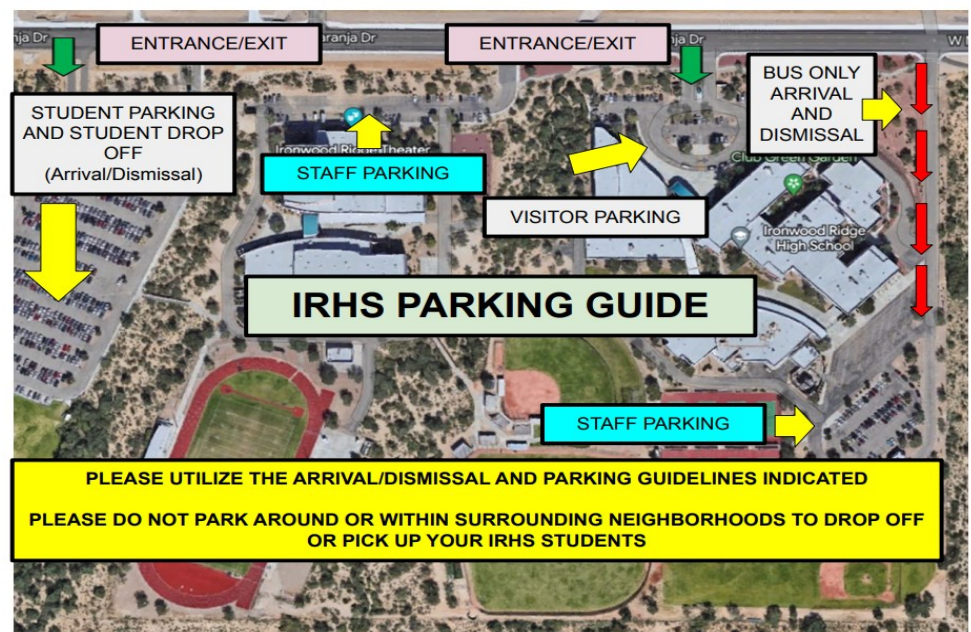
Do you enjoy science or find a passion in one of the science fields? Come be a part of the IRHS Science Olympiad Team. We are forming Ironwood Ridge's inaugural team this year, and will be competing with teams from several schools around the region, in different categories relating to science.

Parent volunteers are also needed for regional competitions as well as "learning seminars" periodically conducted to disseminate information regarding new competitions.

For information about the team or volunteering, please see Mr. DesJarlais in room A136, or email [pdesarl@amphi.com](mailto:pdesarl@amphi.com).

## IRHS PARKING

Thank you for your partnership with our IRHS staff and community. We are working on further communicating our parking and arrival/dismissal expectations for campus. Please see the attached expectations in PDF form. These expectations ensure student and staff safety, as well as ensure we are good neighbors to our community around us. Thank you in advance for helping us keep our students, parents and staff safe.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PROJECT GRAD PRESENTS



**SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY 2, 2024**

**JOIN US FOR THIS MAJOR  
FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING  
AMPHI, CDO,  
AND IRHS  
PROJECT GRAD EVENTS**

**BUSINESS & PERSONAL  
SPONSORSHIPS  
AVAILABLE -  
EMAIL: [DNEWELL@OVCUP.ORG](mailto:DNEWELL@OVCUP.ORG)**



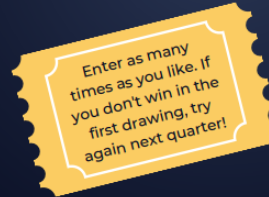
# 2024 PROJECT GRAD

Attention Parents of IRHS Seniors!

We all know parking and great seats at graduation are hard to come by. Take out the stress, and enter to win one of three graduation packages!

Each winning package receives...

**UP CLOSE PARKING &  
4 RESERVED SEATS  
FOR GRADUATION!**



Payments accepted through Venmo: IRHSNPO

PayPal: [paypal.me/IRHSNPO](https://paypal.me/IRHSNPO)

Please include your name, email, and your graduate's name when purchasing

**\$10/Ticket**

One winner per quarter. Raffle entries will reset every quarter. First drawing will take place on 10/6/23

Winners will be notified via email. One winner per family.  
Proceeds go to the Nighthawk Nation PTO.

*Thank*  
**YOU**

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The 2024 Project Graduation senior celebration is scheduled for May 15, 2024 following the graduation ceremony. IRHS Project Grad has been a highly anticipated event for seniors since 2004, providing an all night graduation celebration in a safe, alcohol and drug-free setting. This year's theme will be announced in the near future. Tickets are on sale online at [irhsprojectgraduation.com](https://irhsprojectgraduation.com). The Early Bird ticket price of \$85 applies until September 30, 2023. The price thereafter is \$90. Project Graduation only happens through the year-round efforts of volunteers. We encourage all parents, especially those of underclassmen, to consider volunteering or contributing in any way they can to keep this event going for years to come. For more information on meetings and how to become involved, please visit our website at: [irhsprojectgraduation.com](https://irhsprojectgraduation.com).

**OCTOBER  
9th - 13th**

**Fall Break**  
NO SCHOOL!





# Nighthawk Nation PTO

**Make an impact with us!**

The Nighthawk Nation PTO's primary focus is to support Ironwood Ridge teachers and students to make IRHS classrooms thrive.

Please consider volunteering your time, we can't do it without you!

Email us at [nighthawknationpto@gmail.com](mailto:nighthawknationpto@gmail.com)

## Restaurant Night Fundraisers?

Sounds like a win-win to us! Grab some tasty treats and a portion of the proceeds will go back to the Nighthawk Nation PTO!

**Panda Express - 9/21/23**

**Chipotle - 10/25/23**

## Corporate Sponsorship

Do you own a local business or do you know someone who does? We are looking for corporate sponsors for the 2023-24 school year. Donations are tax deductible and you will receive sponsorship benefits based on your donation amount. For more details reach out to the PTO at [nighthawknationpto@gmail.com](mailto:nighthawknationpto@gmail.com).



## Nighthawk Give

We know families are incredibly busy. To make giving easier, you can donate directly to the PTO through Venmo or Paypal. Your monetary gift will be used to fund events, supply teachers with much needed items and for campus improvements.

### Direct Giving:



**venmo**



Email: [nighthawknationpto@gmail.com](mailto:nighthawknationpto@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nighthawknationpto>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nighthawknationpto/>