

ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ithaca

INSIDER

FEBRUARY 2017

THIS ISSUE:

Superintendent of the Year Award	2
Advanced Placement Recognition	4

Smoothies with the Superintendent	5
Staff Highlight: Nancy Smith	6
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	8



ICSD Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day
See more photos on page 8

Superintendent of the Year Award

Dr. Luvelle Brown Named 2017 New York State School Superintendent of the Year

The New York State Council of School Superintendents announced that Ithaca City School District (ICSD) Superintendent Dr. Luvelle Brown has been named the 2017 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Brown will be recognized at a national ceremony in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 2. Additionally, Dr. Brown will be honored at an event in Albany on March 6.

"I am overjoyed," said Dr. Brown. "This special recognition is a tribute to the exceptional efforts and accomplishments of the entire Ithaca City School District community."

Congratulations Dr. Brown!

Dr. Brown's family helps him celebrate the special recognition.



Budget Season is upon us, for updates visit

<http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=214>

Commendations Ceremony
Feb. 28, 2017 • 5:30 p.m. • Kulp Auditorium

Upcoming Public Meetings with Budget Development Discussions

Meeting	Date/Time	Location
Board Of Education Meeting <i>2017-18 ICSD Preliminary Budget Assumptions and Forecast</i>	Feb. 14, 2017 6:00 p.m.	Board Room
Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting <i>Budget Focus Area: State Aid Overview</i>	Feb. 21, 2017 5:30 p.m.	Board Room
Commendations Ceremony	Feb. 28, 2017 5:30 p.m.	Kulp Auditorium
Board of Education Meeting <i>TST BOCES 2017-18 Budget Presentation</i>	Feb. 28, 2017 6:00 p.m.	Board Room
Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting <i>Budget Focus Area: Special Education and Pre-School</i>	March 21, 2017 5:30 p.m.	Board Room
Board of Education Meeting <i>Adoption of Election Resolution</i>	March 28, 2017 6:00 p.m.	Board Room

Advanced Placement Recognition

ICSD Placed on the College Board's 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll

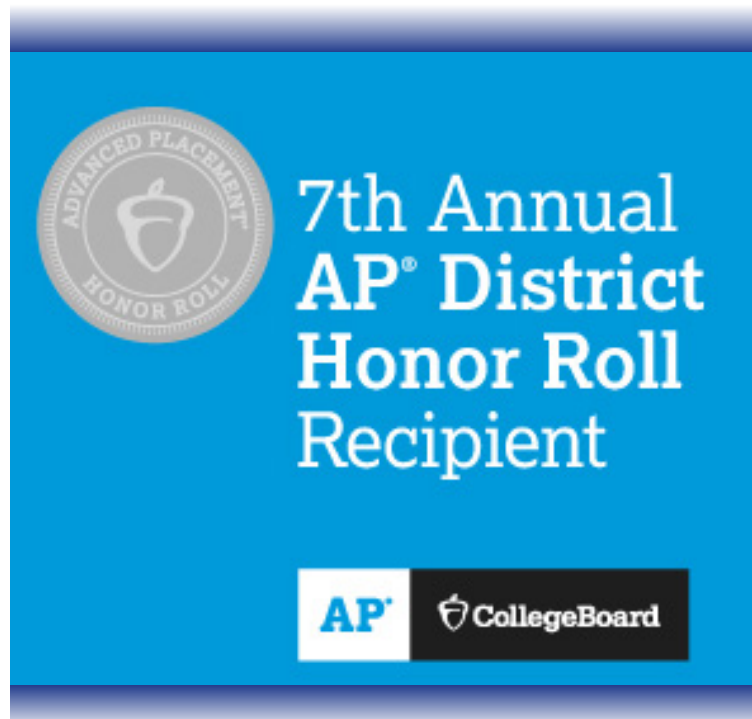
The ICSD is one of 433 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. To be included on the 7th Annual Honor Roll, ICSD had to, since 2014, increase the number and diversity of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that ICSD is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

“Our school community is committed to inclusive and equitable opportunities for all young people,” said ICSD Superintendent Dr. Luvelle Brown. “The recent recognition from the College Board is an indication of our school district’s success with engaging, educating, and empowering all learners.”

National data from 2016 shows that among black/African American, Hispanic, and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be equitably opened. ICSD is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

“Congratulations to all the teachers and administrators in this district who have worked so tirelessly to both expand access to AP and also to help students succeed on the AP Exams,” said Trevor Packer, the College Board’s head of AP and Instruction. “These teachers and administrators are delivering real opportunity in their schools and classrooms, and students are rising to the challenge.”

Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.



Inclusion on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2014 to 2016, looking across 37 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used.

Districts must: Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts; Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2016 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2014 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

The complete 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found here. See more at: <http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=947#sthash.YmdPaHbE.dpuf>



Engaged & Empowered Learning

Student Projects Showcased on New EEE Website

The ICSD is pleased to announce the launch of the Engaged and Empowered Learning (EEE) website! The EEE website focuses on Engaged, Empowered Learning within ICSD and showcases projects created by elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the district.

ICSD invites our community to explore Engaged, Empowered Learning in our district. The learning witnessed in this collection represents the ICSD vision and mission as it comes to life through audacious innovation, designed to meet the needs of our 21st Century students. ICSD is committed to meaningful and personal learning, to building and engaging in community, to teaching and learning in responsive and powerful ways, and to achieving academic and personal excellence for everyone.

Our EEE website helps to showcase this commitment. In the real world, people learn in holistic, integrated, and personal ways, which leads our teachers to design leading edge, learner-centered curriculum. Students are engaged in projects that often include rigorous research (“in the field” or away from the classroom), engaging with experts, synthesizing their learning in various ways, and communicating what they have learned in traditional and nontraditional venues. These projects involve students in authentic learning; doing the work of historians, scientists, artists, mathematicians, and other professionals, in order to build and apply knowledge that is meaningful to their lives and futures.

Click here to learn more: <http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=956#sthash.fvIStZXq.dpuf>



Smoothies with the Superintendent

Smoothies With Superintendent

ICSD STAFF INVITED FOR SMOOTHIES & MORE

1/4 Caroline 7:15AM Staff Lounge	1/5 Dewitt 8:30AM TBD
1/10 Enfield 7:15AM Library	1/11 Northeast 7:30AM Staff Lounge
1/12 Boynton 8:30AM Library	1/17 Belle Sherman 7:20AM Library
1/24 Cayuga Heights 7:20AM Cafeteria	1/25 BJM 7:20AM Family Center
1/26 Transportation 9:45AM	1/31 Fall Creek 7:20AM Cafeteria
1/13 H-S 8:30AM	2/1 South Hill 7:20AM
2/6 LACS 8:30AM Cafeteria	

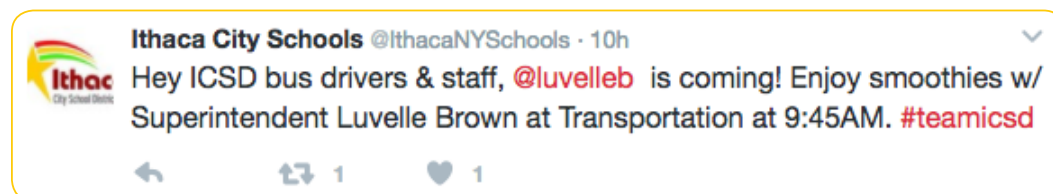
Dr. Brown recently visited with staff at each building in the ICSD to share fruit smoothies and engage in conversations. The casual “Smoothies with the Superintendent” events took place during January and February. During each connection, Dr. Brown shared his favorite breakfast with ICSD team members. To create Dr. Brown’s signature smoothies, please follow the recipes below:

Non-Dairy Smoothie

1 Small Banana, Raw
1 Cup Spinach, Raw
½ Cup Blueberries, Frozen
½ Cup Fruit Cocktail, Canned

Yogurt Smoothie

½ Cup Yogurt, Vanilla
½ Cup Blueberries, Frozen
1 Small Banana, Raw
½ Cup Fruit Cocktail, Canned



Staff Highlight: Nancy Smith



Staff Highlight: Nancy Smith DeWitt Middle School Cafeteria Supervisor

We're thrilled to recognize Ms. Nancy Smith as this month's featured staff member. Ms. Smith is the cafeteria supervisor of DeWitt Middle School and does much more than ensure students are well fed. Ms. Smith makes every student in her cafeteria feel valued and important.

"Nancy is amazing," wrote Ms. Kelly Horrocks, a teacher at DeWitt Middle School. Ms. Horrocks nominated Ms. Smith for the district-wide recognition in ICSD Insider. "She knows nearly every child by name. She talks with them as they go through the lunch line and knows something about them personally. But the remarkable thing about Nancy is the passion with which she does her job. I have worked with her for many years and she is always trying to find ways to source local, healthy food and make it appealing to the children. She spent a day last summer picking blueberries at a farm in Virgil that was closing for the season so she could get lots of fresh blueberries for free to make smoothies for the kids at DeWitt. She uses fresh garden produce from DeWitt's own garden to offer healthy, organic foods."

Ms. Smith's staff also admire her.

“She is the best person, she loves her job and it is like family to her.”

Deb Lower

“Nancy is a good manager and a very loving person for her kids in school. She cares for everybody. It is very pleasant to work with her.”

Dimitra Stratakos

“

I have come to love and admire Nancy as a role model. She is kind, hardworking, witty, a perfectionist and a prankster. Nancy's love for the children is seen in everything she does such as coming up with different recipes, giving a child an extra lunch, being someone they can talk to and encouraging us to be our best at all times. Nancy is amazing and I am proud to be a part of her team.

Shocoye Hochoye

”

Staff Highlight, continued



Q&A with Ms. Nancy Smith, DeWitt Middle School Cafeteria Supervisor

Q: What inspires you?

A: The students inspire me the most. They keep me on my toes. I am always trying to figure out something new they will eat with the products we have.

Q: What does Team ICSD mean to you?

A: Working together as a team and helping everyone.

Q: How did you and your colleagues celebrate Team ICSD Day?

A: We celebrate everyday.

Q: What accomplishments are you most proud of at work and in life?

A: At work I am proud of DeWitt Cafeteria. We have worked very hard to try and take away the belief that school lunches are horrible. I feel we have proven that over and over again. In my personal life my greatest accomplishments are my children: Corey, Jennifer, and Kathy.

Q: Describe what it means to be an excellent ICSD employee?

A: To be proud of what you do. Caring about your job and giving more than 100 percent of yourself every day. I am very proud to be a part of this district.

Q: What do you like best about your job?

A: The best part about my job is the people I work with and the students. I also like to cook, and love to have fun! I work in a great environment, but, I do believe you make that environment work for you. We never have a bad day at the DeWitt Cafeteria.

Q: What do you like best about working at DeWitt Middle School?

A: The staff and the students. DeWitt is like a second family to me. I feel I truly belong here.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration



IMPORTANT DATES

February 20
February 20-24
February 28

President's Day - No School
School Recess
Commendations Ceremony



[SEE MORE EVENTS](#)



February 2017