

2.14.25



Dear Students,

I hope you are having a great week. This Monday, February 17, is a reflection day. This means that, students, you have the morning off. Academic classes, and all classes before 3 p.m. will not meet on Monday.

However, in the afternoon on Monday, there will be a special presentation very much focused on the 2026 tour that President Devey discussed at Wednesday's community meeting. **The event features guest scholar [Jan Swafford](#) and is from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., in Corson.** I encourage everyone to be there. This session is required for all students in History and English Language classes, as well as for all students in Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and Choir. All other students, faculty and staff are invited and welcome to attend as well. Please plan to be there.

Professor Swafford, an expert musicologist, will share thoughts and analysis about Charles Ives and his Symphony No. 4, which will be the featured piece in our 2026 Centennial Tour. Remember, the tour is titled "Imagine US" (a play on the U.S. and "us," we the people). This session is a chance to learn more about the music, program, and themes for the tour. As President Devey noted, History and English Language students will be asked to write about themes surrounding America's 250th birthday (the U.S.'s semiquincentennial), which happens in 2026, the year of our tour and also the beginning of Interlochen's centennial celebrations. We turn 100 in 2028. We are asking students to explore themes that lift up the promise of the U.S., what is best about who we are, and what we can become. How do we envision our future: Imagine US. Your

ideas will help shape the developing program for the tour—so this is very important work. This chance to meet with Professor Swafford is not to be missed.

All students will then attend their Arts Block classes, starting at 3 p.m.

I hope you enjoy the extra time off to rest and reflect on all the wonderful things you have accomplished this year.

Announcements

MONDAY SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 17

- **Morning:** No classes before 3 p.m. Enjoy the extra time!
- **1 - 2:30 p.m.** - History, English Language, Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and Choir students, attend a presentation with Jan Swafford (Corson). All are welcome. Please plan to be there.
- **3:00 p.m.** - Arts classes meet

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 19

- Advisory Groups meet at their regular locations at 1:15 p.m.
- Community Meeting at 2 p.m. in Corson

FOR SENIORS - SHOW OFF AT GRADUATION!

Seniors, apply now for this important opportunity! Each year, we select one senior speaker and one senior performance to represent the graduating class at your graduation ceremony. The senior performance can be an individual or a group. One exceptional senior composition will also be featured at the Honors Convocation or Commencement.

Please review [the Senior Speaker/Performer guidelines](#) and send your submission **by the end of the day today, 11:59 p.m., February 14.**

For senior composition, please review [the Senior Composition guidelines](#) and submit no later than **March 14.**

AI IN THE ARTS PANEL DISCUSSION - SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS

At our February 26 Community Meeting, we'll host a special panel discussion about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Arts. This is a unique opportunity to hear from a diverse group of artists and technology leaders, who will share their insights and experiences about the impact of AI on artistic expression and creativity. Whether you are curious about the role AI can play in your creative process, its implications for the future of the arts, or any other related topic, we want to hear from you! All members of our community are encouraged to [submit questions for our panelists](#).

CALL FOR ART AND PERFORMANCE: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

On March 12, we'll host our Women's History Month Community Meeting, featuring art and performances that honor the contributions and achievements of women around the globe. We invite you to be part of this celebration by applying to participate! The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." Submissions that align with this theme will receive priority consideration. Please sign up below:

- [Student Musical Accompanists](#) (sign up by February 25)
- [Performer Application](#) (apply by February 15)
- [Visual Art Submissions](#) (submit by February 25)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS: SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING AT INTERLOCHEN

We invite all community members to participate in the Sustainability Planning Survey. Your feedback is vital for evaluating our sustainability efforts, understanding community knowledge and interest, and refining our goals for Interlochen's Climate Action Plan 2028. Thank you for your input! [Take the survey](#) by February 21.

TAKEOVER BARBERSHOP - HAIRCUTS

Wednesday, February 26 | 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dennison Center

[Takeover Barbershop](#) will once again be on campus for haircuts in Dennison. Angie and Andre have experience in cutting ALL hair types. Payment is required to be made directly to Takeover Barbershop. [Sign up here](#). For questions, please reach out to [Esther Triggs](#). (Note that our February 12 barbershop was canceled due to illness, and appointments rescheduled for February 26.)

Also, I'm happy to share that we have a new stylist in town specializing in protective styles! [Kaya Dean](#) works at [Premiere 31](#) in the Grand Traverse Mall.

TP ROLLS NEEDED!

The Costume Shop needs your help. We need empty toilet paper rolls to use to make fun headpieces for the upcoming production of *Volpone*. Please drop off your empty toilet

paper rolls any time before April 4! You'll find the drop-off bin outside the costume studio in the basement of the Harvey Theater. We need a lot, so each one is helpful!

Activities

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

Friday, February 14 at 8 p.m.

Fine Arts Building

Bring your Valentine, or come solo and enjoy a night of music and dancing with the Pop Music Ensemble!

MOVIE BUS: CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD

Saturday, February 15

Buses leave at 6 p.m. from Mott

Avengers: Assemble to go see the [new Marvel flick](#) where Captain America must handle a new international threat and Thunderbolt Ross as the Red Hulk! (Note that the music score was composed by Interlochen alum [Laura Karpman](#)!) Tickets are \$16 and will be taken directly out of your student account. (Please check your schedule before signing up as there are no refunds.) [Sign up here.](#)

SNOW TUBING AT TIMBERLEE HILLS

Friday, February 21

Buses leave at 6 p.m. from Mott

Join the StuAc crew for a thrilling night of snow tubing! The cost is \$41

(non-refundable), charged to your student account, covering 2 hours of tubing.

Timberlee Hills has a lodge with food and drinks for purchase, so bring some extra money if you'd like. (Note: To avoid being charged after signing up, you must find another student to take your spot.) Sign up quickly as spots fill fast! [Sign up here.](#)

NIGHT ON THE TOWN

Saturday, February 22

Buses leave at 6:50 p.m. from Mott

Enjoy a night out in Traverse City with friends! Bring spending money and dress warmly, as the lake breeze can be cooler. We'll return to campus at 9:20 p.m. (Note: Only the first 100 sign-ups can be accommodated.) [Sign up here.](#)

Reminders

2025 SPRING COLLEGE TOURS IN NEW YORK CITY AND BOSTON

Blue Torch USA is offering a Spring Break College Tour in New York City and Boston, designed exclusively for Interlochen students. The tour explores 30 prestigious institutions, including 6 Ivy League universities, 7 top-ranked universities and colleges, 8 conservatories, and 9 art and design schools. The program includes guided campus tours, admission Q&A sessions, and art-specific visits led by experienced educational consultants. Students will stay in midtown Manhattan near Times Square and in Boston's Theatre District. Students also have the opportunity to attend excursions to Broadway shows, national museums, and Boston Duck Boat tours. Limited to 15 spots, all Interlochen students are welcome to [register to attend](#). For questions, please reach out to Dr. Gao at lin.gao@bluetorchusa.com.

WINTERLOCHEN STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking student volunteers to help distribute accessibility items during our February 22nd [Winterlochen](#), our family-friendly winter festival, open to our entire northern Michigan community. If you are not already volunteering at Winterlochen, this is a wonderful opportunity to support the community during this exciting and impactful annual event! If you are available and interested in volunteering, [please sign up using this short form](#). For questions, please reach out to Artist Relations and Special Projects Coordinator & Instructor of Voice [Christine Roberts](#).

DRAG SHOW SIGN-UP

Back again! We are calling ALL Drag Queens, Kings, and Creatures of all kinds to participate in a night of fun! Join us in Phoenix Theater on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. for the show of a lifetime. There's gonna be runway looks, there's gonna be dancing, there's gonna be camp. Please let us know of your interest by filling out [this form](#) by **February 15**. Come celebrate with us!

PEER TUTORING CENTER

Need writing, science, math, or music theory help? Peer tutors are ready to work with you to get you started on homework or deepen your understanding. No appointment is necessary. You can find all the tutors on the lower level of the Bonisteel Library, Sunday* to Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Music theory tutors are available:

- Mondays 7 - 8 p.m., - Bonisteel Library Lower Level

- Wednesdays 12-1 p.m., Frohlich 1108

**Please note that on Sunday evenings, you should enter the lower level through the Percy Grainger door on the west side of the Library.*

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: INTERLOCHEN REVIEW

We're excited to announce that *The Interlochen Review 2025* is now open for submissions! [The Interlochen Review](#) is an annual online literary journal edited by creative writing and visual arts students of Interlochen Arts Academy. We're thrilled to invite students across all majors to submit their writing, visual art, songs, and hybrid and new media artwork. We look forward to receiving a diverse range of voices and welcome work that exhibits passion, skill, and an innovative approach to craft.

The deadline for creative writing and singer-songwriter submissions is **Friday, February 21 at 11:59 p.m.** The deadline for visual arts and hybrid genres submissions is **Monday, April 21 at 11:59 p.m.** Please see [Submittable](#) for submission guidelines and to upload submissions. Please e-mail us at interlochenreview@interlochen.org with any questions.

WORSHIP BUS INFORMATION

[View the schedule](#)

Cultivating Community

From the office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In honor of Black History Month, we're celebrating the incredible Interlochen alumni who are making an impact! Keep an eye on our social media for weekly features this month.

This week, we are highlighting music therapist **Dr. Melita Belgrave** (IAC 92, IAA 92-94, IAC St 94-95), who uses music to bridge generations. Let's honor the rhythm of resilience! [Read our conversation with Dr. Belgrave here.](#)

BLACK HAIR VENDING MACHINE

As a reminder, our Black Hair Vending Machine is set up in the Scholarshop! Kiara Bastian (owner of Key Essentials Vending) will be on campus on Monday, February 17,

to restock the machine, and will also be available to meet with students. Be sure to [let us know what items you'd like added](#). If you have questions, or you'd like to meet Kiara, please reach out to [Esther Triggs](#).

Health and Wellness

BLUEBERRY CHALLENGE UPDATE

6,406 miles have been logged this week, with a total of **13,208 miles** in 2 weeks. That's over halfway around the world! Keep up the great work!

RISE ABOVE: A RESILIENCE-FOCUSED SUBSTANCE USE GROUP

School Counseling is running a confidential substance use group that focuses on promoting therapeutic skills and decision-making around substances. This group is led by school counselors Megan Emmendorfer and Meghan McNeill and is open to any student with a relationship to substances. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Interested students should reach out to any school counselor or mentalhealthsupport@interlochen.org for more information and the confidential location of the meeting.

HEALING HEARTS: GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A group for anyone who has experienced loss.

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Visual Arts lecture room.

This student group provides space for those who are interested in connecting with others on their grief journey. For more information, please email one of the group leaders — school counselor [Amanda Gillis](#) or visual arts instructor [Patty Smith](#).

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

If you are feeling depressed, anxious, homesick, or just need to talk — here are 4 ways to get help now:

1. [Make an appointment with an Interlochen School Counselor](#)
2. [Make an appointment with an Online Therapist](#) (free, confidential) - Students can access 8 free video therapy sessions with the provider of their choice through our partnership with [Uwill](#) (be sure to log in with your Interlochen email address)
3. Call a Uwill crisis counselor anytime: **Call 833-646-1526**. This service is free and available to Academy students 24 hours a day.
4. [Access a local area off-campus therapist](#)

MENU ITEMS THIS WEEK

[Check out this week's menu](#) including gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options. Menus are updated weekly to take advantage of an abundance of fresh, local produce — including items from our on-campus garden.

College Corner

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Pre-college summer program applications are open at most institutions. We hope you will consider [exploring a program](#) at a college that interests you!

Would you like to take a summer class? [Interlochen Online](#), [Michigan Virtual](#), [BYU](#), [IU](#), and [Fusion Academy](#) have options available. Your Academic and College Counselor (ACC) will be happy to discuss your summer plans with you.

SENIORS

- **File your FAFSA!** If you haven't applied for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) yet, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible! Many colleges have deadlines this month. Completing the FAFSA is essential for accessing federal financial aid, including grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities, and student loans. Many states and colleges also use FAFSA information to determine eligibility for additional financial aid. [Complete your application here.](#)
- **College Scholarships:** Check out [GoingMerry](#) and [FastWeb](#) to see scholarship options.
- **SCOIR Survey:** Please check your Scoir account for a "Scholarships and Awards" survey. Gathering this information helps us guide future students toward colleges that offer substantial financial aid. When you receive an offer, please update this survey.

JUNIORS

Watch for emails from your ACC regarding your Wednesday workshops. And, please remember to schedule your **College Planning Meeting with your ACC**. These meetings will begin in February and extend through April. You may book your one-on-one meeting through your [ACC's Calendly Page](#).

Opportunities

SUMMER OPPORTUNITY: WORK AT INTERLOCHEN ARTS CAMP!

If you will be 18 on or before mid-June, we would love for you to join us to WORK at Interlochen Arts Camp THIS SUMMER! We have many open positions that would be a great fit for a new Academy graduate! Some of these positions include: Camp Counselors, Lifeguards, Pedestrian Safety Officers, Hospitality Staff, Dining Services, Health Services Assistants, and MORE! [Please follow this link to see all available positions.](#)

Accolades

Joseph Zhang was awarded second prize in the Philadelphia International Music Festival Virtual Concerto Competition!

For Families

FAMILY INFO SESSIONS

We will continue our Family Info Sessions with a series of discussions on college planning. [View the full schedule and archived recordings here.](#)

Up next:

College Application Planning - Freshmen, Sophomores

(for 9th and 10th grade families, especially)

Monday, February 24 | 7 p.m. ET | [Zoom Link](#)

Geared towards families of freshmen and sophomores, this session will cover course planning for next year, PSAT, Scoir, Khan Academy, and planning your student's summer.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: RE-ENROLLMENT DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2025

The Office of Admission & Financial Aid has recently been in touch about re-enrollment for all families who are presently eligible to return for the 2025-26 school year. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, please reach out to admission@interlochen.org. To secure your seat for next year, please remember to complete your re-enrollment by March 1.

INTERLOCHEN HOMESTAY PROGRAM - HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

We are seeking host families for spring break! We are receiving a high number of requests for this break. Families and members of the Interlochen community interested in hosting a student are encouraged to apply. Host families do not need to be local, but must be within the USA. Please send any questions to International Student Services Manager [Kalyn Rabuse](#). In order to assist as many students as possible, please complete an application as soon as possible. [Learn more and apply here](#).

Guest Artists

- [Jan Swafford](#) | Music and the whole of IAA | 2.16 - 2.19
- [Amie Farrell](#) † | Theatre | 2.20

†Interlochen Arts Academy Alum

Performances

The Interlochen Dramatists present

"FIRST LOVE, LAST LOVE" 💕

Friday, February 14 at **7:00 p.m.** ← note updated time!

The Writing House

Come celebrate Valentine's Day with all its passions and heartbreak — and everything in between. The evening will feature original dramatic and comedic monologues written and performed by the students of ENG 410 (The Art of The Play).

"SWAN LAKE"

Friday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 16 at 3 p.m.

Corson Auditorium

PIANO DEPARTMENT RECITAL

Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Dendrinos Chapel

FREE, no tickets required

WIND SYMPHONY WITH CHOIR

Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Corson Auditorium

ORCHESTRA AND STRING ORCHESTRA: BASLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Corson Auditorium

RED WHEELBARROW READING

Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The Writing House

FREE, no tickets required

Planning Ahead

WINTERLOCHEN

Saturday, February 22

Our annual [Winterlochen](#) celebration brings families from our local area to our campus for kid-friendly activities and performances. Interested in volunteering? [Sign up here to help out!](#)

SAVE THE DATES: ALL-GO PERFORMANCES

Please save the dates for our upcoming all-go performances. As a reminder, students are required to attend each of these performances in Corson. All employees and families are welcome.

- **Orchestra**
Thursday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Spring Dance**
Friday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Rodgers and Hammerstein Revue - Dress Rehearsal**
Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m.

FESTIVAL & GRADUATION

Our Academic year concludes with *Festival* on May 21-23. All are welcome! *Festival* concludes with the Commencement Ceremony for graduating seniors and post-graduates on Saturday, May 24 at 10 a.m. in Kresge. [View the schedule](#)

SUMMER STORAGE

Please note that if you need to store your items over the summer, you need to use our official storage provider, [Dorm Room Movers](#). This is the only process available for summer storage. There are no on-campus storage options.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Review the [Academic Calendars](#) for this year, and next Academy year.

Have a great week.

