

12.6.24



Dear Students,

I hope you've had a nice week back – and are enjoying the snow! We have just 2 weeks until winter break, and, as you know, we have a lot happening on campus. Be sure to use your time well, and also save some time for fun – to enjoy this winter wonderland in which we live!

Before break, we'll see many big end-of-semester presentations from your arts divisions. Tonight, Interdisciplinary Arts students will perform their original works in Phoenix at 7:30 p.m. Opera students will perform *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, tonight and on Saturday. Also this weekend, the Jazz Orchestra will perform Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker* both on campus and at the [Bay Theatre in Suttons Bay](#) – with two of the three performances already sold out!

On Wednesday, December 11, we will all attend the final dress rehearsal for *The Nutcracker*. This is an All-Go performance – student attendance is required. Please arrive at Corson at 7:15 p.m. to scan in, and then find your seat. (Note that you cannot scan in early – you must scan in after 7:15.) Please speak to Vice Provost Megan Walton if you have any questions.

And, on Thursday, December 12, Visual Arts Seniors will host an open studio to share their work with you. Stop by the Herlitz studio in the Visual Arts Building between 7 and 8 p.m. and enjoy cookies, cocoa, and art!

Looking ahead, on Sunday, December 15, we'll host our annual Holiday Dinner, with Stone Cafeteria transformed into a restaurant just for you! The evening theme is “winter woodland,” and formal dress is encouraged. Please [sign up here](#) to select your meal option.

I can't wait to see all your performances, and I look forward to seeing what you do next!

2025-26 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

We are happy to release the calendar for the 2025-26 Academic Year. Please review [next year's calendar here](#).

Announcements

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 11

- Advisory Groups meet at their regular locations at 1:15 p.m.
- Community Meeting at 2 p.m. (in Corson), followed by Culture Fair (Library & Rotundas)
- All Go Performance: *The Nutcracker*, 7:30 p.m. (Corson) — attendance required

WINTER WEATHER

Colder weather is now upon us, and dressing appropriately for the weather is important in staying warm, comfortable, and healthy. [Here is a guide](#) created by Residence Hall Coordinator Haley Estes to help us all stay comfortable during the Michigan winter. And, a winter suggestion from the SRB: Consider investing in traction cleats for your boots! For example, the [Yaktrax cleats](#) will improve your grip on snow and ice. Be sure to pick out cleats that are abrasion and rust-resistant!

SECOND SEMESTER SCHEDULES

Please review your second semester schedule in the [Education Community](#) and submit any requests for changes using [this form](#). Form submissions will be prioritized over email requests. You can view a full list of classes and their times on the [Master Matrix](#). Course descriptions can be found in the [Course Catalog](#).

LAST CALL: SIGN UP FOR CULTURE FAIR!

The Culture Fair, on December 11, is an opportunity for our diverse community to share, and learn about, important aspects of our identities. [Sign up here](#) to lead a booth

about an aspect of YOUR religion, ethnicity, nationality, or another important aspect of your identity. The Culture Fair is presented by the DEI Student Voice Team in partnership with the International Student Union.

UPDATES TO AI POLICY

As the landscape of AI continues to evolve, we are committed to regularly reviewing and updating our AI policies. We have introduced [a new clause](#) in the Student Handbook that highlights important guidelines regarding the use of AI in depicting other Interlochen students or staff. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with [this update](#) to the Student Handbook.

TAKEOVER BARBERSHOP - HAIRCUTS

Wednesday, December 18 | 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](#).

Activities

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY 🦴

Friday, December 6 | 8 p.m.

The Writing House

Join the Dennison Center team for a murder mystery party! The theme is “Roaring 20’s.” There will be prizes for the best-dressed participants!

MOVIE BUS: WICKED 🍿

Saturday, December 7

Bus leaves from Mott at 5:30 p.m.

We have reached bus capacity, and signup is now closed.

GROCERY BUS: MEIJER 🛒

Sunday, December 8

Bus leaves from Mott at 1:30 p.m.; returning around 3:30 p.m.

In addition to a wide selection of groceries, Meijer offers clothing, toiletries, toys, and more. The bus is free. [Sign up here](#).

ADVENT SING CHAPEL 🎄

Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Dendrinos Chapel

Join the Christian Fellowship Student Group to celebrate the season of Advent with a time of worship and reflection through songs and readings, focusing on the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. All are welcome!

DISABILITY+ GAME NIGHT 🎮

Tuesday, December 10 | 7 - 8 p.m.

Bonisteel Library

A space for disabled, chronically ill, and neurodivergent people to play board games and create community with each other. We will meet every Tuesday from 7 - 8 p.m. in Bonisteel Library.

HOLIDAY DINNER - SIGN UP!

December 15

The Dennison team, in collaboration with Stone Cafeteria, will provide a unique dining experience to celebrate the culmination of the first semester and all we have accomplished. To provide the best experience we are asking everyone to **indicate their food preference here**. The theme will be “winter woodland” – think florals, frosted pines, and woodland creatures. There will be live music by Academy students. Formal dress is encouraged. It will be a wonderful evening and a night to remember!

Reminders

AMAZON SHIPPING ADDRESS

When placing orders from Amazon, please ensure you use the following format for the delivery address. This will help ensure your packages are delivered promptly and correctly!

Your Name

Your Residence Hall

9900 Diamond Park Road

Interlochen, MI 49343

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.*

WORSHIP BUS INFORMATION

[View the schedule](#)

New Worship Bus: Saturday Morning Shabbat Services (Starting December 7) Interlochen will begin providing no-cost transportation to Shabbat Services in Traverse City. Departure will be from Mott at 10:15 a.m. every Saturday. The service begins at 11 a.m. followed by a kiddush lunch, ending around 1:30 or 2 p.m. We will return to campus by around 2-2:30. If you are interested, please email [Jennifer Wesling](#) so that we can determine the vehicle size needed. Services are provided by [Chabad Traverse City](#) at 324 Munson Avenue in Traverse City.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

- **Haven't ordered your yearbook yet? [Click here to order one!](#)** Books are \$75 each and are delivered during the last week of school. The money comes out of the student account. If \$75 is a hardship, email [Jennifer Wesling](#) to see if you qualify for a discount.
- **Seniors and Post-graduates - Submit your Photo:** Due no later than January 15. Please see [submission instructions and guidelines](#).
- **Share your Photos:** Help us make this year's yearbook special! Send your favorite Academy photos to yearbook@interlochen.org for consideration!

Cultivating Community

From the office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

December 10 marks the anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The document establishes the inalienable rights that every individual is entitled to simply by being human, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, language, political beliefs, national or social origin, property, birth, or any other status. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948, and sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

While the Declaration itself is not legally binding, it has inspired over [60 human rights instruments](#) that together form an international benchmark for human rights. The widespread agreement among all United Nations Member States on the essential Human Rights articulated in the Declaration enhances its significance and highlights the importance of Human Rights in our everyday lives.

Health and Wellness

HEALING HEARTS: GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A group for anyone who has experienced loss.

This group will meet for 8 weeks and provide space for those interested in connecting with others on their grief journey. The group will be co-led by school counselor Amanda Gillis and visual arts instructor Patty Smith. As part of the group, members will have the opportunity to create a piece of art that reflects their journey, loved one, or loss, unique to their own personal experience. The group will start after winter break on January 15. For more information, please email [Amanda Gillis](#) or [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

SENIORS

You have worked hard on your college and conservatory applications and we are very proud of you!

The next steps are: update SCOIR with any admissions decisions that you receive, keep track of your portals and passwords, and apply for Financial Aid. Reach out to your ACC for help if you are waitlisted for any of your top choice schools or would like to compare multiple offers and/or award packages. Remember many institutions have rolling admissions, and later deadlines if you want to apply elsewhere. Set up a meeting with your ACC as needed!

JUNIORS

Now that you have had your first College meeting, it's time to start using SCOIR for research. Take the [College Match Quiz](#), and the [PrinciplesYou Assessment](#). Begin crafting your initial list of colleges. Collaborate on the list with your family. Parents and Guardians can [make suggestions](#) for you within SCOIR.

THE FAFSA IS NOW OPEN

1. [Create your StudentAid.gov account](#) or make sure you can access your existing account by signing in to StudentAid.gov.
2. [Check this chart](#) to confirm whether a parent also needs to have an account before you (the student) can submit your FAFSA form.
3. Complete and submit your FAFSA form.

Accolades

We are thrilled to announce this year's YoungArts competition winners! We're proud to have 17 students win, including 6 winners with distinction. The YoungArts competition is incredibly competitive, and winning is a prestigious honor. Those who received the

“with distinction” award will participate in National YoungArts Week held in January, in Miami. Congratulations!

- Winners with Distinction: **Sarah Baumgarten, Piper Lodato, Jonathan Miller, April Sutherland, Maya Tzonev, Emily Zhang**
- Winners: **Madeline Ayala, Sabina Camblor, Quinn De Vecchi, Iliana Demas, Greyson Geisness, Tobi LaCroix, Suzie Littleton, Ana Meyer, Blondine Moree, Isabella Rotker, Owen Zanotti**

Two student films were accepted into the New York Short Animation Festival:

- “[Sow A Little](#)” is a music video that the animation program students directed and designed for Winterlochen last year in collaboration with **Courtney Kaiser-Sandler** and **Benjamin Cartel**. The animation was created by the 43 children who came to Winterlochen, with help from film students **Theo Entrekin, Andy Xu, and Diego Rcha-Morgan**.
- “[The Bird Infestation](#)” was directed by **Oliver Hale** with Interdisciplinary artist **Kino Durfy** from a poem written by Creative Writing student **Savannah Driver** and recorded with the help of **Marc Lacuesta**. This is its second festival selection!

For Families

FAMILY INFO SESSIONS

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

Guest Artists

- [Jean Carlos Gonzalez](#) | Music | 12.11
- [Brant Russell](#) | Theatre | 12.13

Performances & Open Studios

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Dendrinos Chapel

FREE, no tickets required

INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS: ORIGINAL WORKS

Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Phoenix Theatre | [Webcast](#)

FREE, no tickets required

JAZZ ORCHESTRA AT THE BAY THEATRE: DUKE ELLINGTON'S "NUTCRACKER"

Saturday, December 7 at 1 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. (4:30 **SOLD OUT**)

The Bay Theatre, Suttons Bay

JAZZ ORCHESTRA: DUKE ELLINGTON'S "NUTCRACKER"

Sunday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. - **SOLD OUT**

Dendrinos Chapel | [Webcast](#)

GUITAR STUDIO AND ENSEMBLE RECITAL

Wednesday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Dendrinos Chapel | [Webcast](#)

FREE, no tickets required

"THE NUTCRACKER"

by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Dress rehearsal: Wednesday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. - All Go - All students to attend.
(rehearsal closed to public)

Thursday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15 at 2 p.m.

Corson Auditorium

VISUAL ARTS OPEN STUDIO

Thursday, December 12 | 7 - 8 p.m.

Herlitz Studio, Visual Arts Building

Join our Visual Arts seniors as they open their studios to share their work. Enjoy cookies, cocoa, art, and friendly conversation in the Herlitz studio.

Planning Ahead

Winter Break: Last class day: December 20; Classes resume on January 9.

- [2024-25 Academic Calendar](#) (current year)
 - [2025-26 Academic Calendar](#) (next year)
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Have a great week.

Camille Colapostri