Frequently Asked Questions by Parents
2026-2027
Indian River High School

1969 Braves Trail
Chesapeake, Virginia 23325
Main Office (757) 578-7000 Fax (757) 578-7004 School Counseling Office (757) 578-7009

Mrs. Dunbar, Principal

Mrs. Lancaster, A.P. for Instruction
Mr. Darden, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Stephens, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Halsey-Holland, Asst. Principal
Mr. Swift, Asst. Principal

Scott Cohen, School Counseling Director and Last Names Ce - Dr
Tim Hargrove, School Counselor Last Names A - Ca
KeShawna Jordan, School Counselor Last Names Du - He
Christen Jones, School Counselor Last Names Hi - Mar
Jenny Barringer, School Counselors Last Names Mas - Q
Crystal Goodman, School Counselor Last Names R - S
Brannef Peters – School Counselor Last Names T - Z
Tourean Johns– Graduation Coach
Natasha Sackey – ACCESS Counselor
Jason Ewers– Work-Based Learning Coordinator
Nicole Eze – Guidance Secretary/Registrar

Where should my child report the first day of school?
Students should report to first block of Semester 1 (A day if the student is in an alternate day class).

What should my child bring on the first day of school?
Students should bring a pen or pencil, a notebook, and lunch. All IRHS students should be able to receive a free breakfast or lunch as we did during the 2026-2027 school year. Please be advised that lunch lines are longer the first week of school, so students may want to bring a packed lunch the first couple of days.

What is the bell schedule?

Bell 1 - 8:55 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Bell 2 - 10:35 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.
Bell 3 - 12:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. (30-minute lunch included)
Bell 4 - 2:25 p.m. - 3:53 p.m.

What lunch will my son/daughter eat?
Lunch assignments are based on students' third bell classes. Lunches will be assigned on the first day of school. Schedule changes will <u>not</u> be made for lunch bell requests (unless there is medical documentation).

Is there a dress code at IRHS?
The dress code at IRHS promotes student safety and attention to academics. Consequently, hats, bandanas, headscarves, beaded necklaces, sagging pants, revealing clothing, tank tops, midriffs, and inappropriate clothing are prohibited. If these items are worn, students will be asked to change their clothes immediately. Students' undergarments should not be seen, and their clothes should appropriately cover their stomachs, shoulders, and legs. For more detailed information, please refer to the Student Information Guide.

How many classes is my child taking this year?
On a four by four block schedule, students can take 8 classes and earn 8 credits this year. Each student will take four classes during the first semester (September - January) and four classes during the second semester (February - June). At the end of each semester, students will earn 1 credit for each passed.

Can parent/teacher conferences be scheduled at the high school?
Yes. If you are concerned about your child's class(es), you can call the counselor assigned to your child to schedule a meeting. By making an appointment, you can be assured the counselor and/or teacher(s) will be available. If you show up without an appointment, you may have to wait or schedule an appointment at a later date. Parent/Teacher conferences are usually held at 8:30 a.m. or 4:00 p.m.; meetings with just the counselor can be set for anytime during the school day.

How can my child get in touch with the counselor?
Students are encouraged to e-mail their assigned counselors. Your child's assigned counselor will get back to him/her as quickly as possible.

When should I be concerned about my child's grades?
Be active and supportive in your child's academic career to ensure his/her success. If your child complains (more than normal) about school, make an appointment to see the school counselor. Check ParentVue regularly.

When are report cards distributed?
Report cards are available after the conclusion of each quarter - this means that report cards are available through StudentVue/ParentVue roughly every 5 weeks. Each report card grade counts for 20% of the final grade for a semester class. 2026-2027 first semester marking periods end on Oct 8, Nov 10, Dec 16 and Jan 28. Report cards can be found on StudentVue and ParentVue about a week after the quarter ends. Final report cards are NOT mailed home.

How do I know if my child is promoted from one grade to the next?
In Chesapeake, students are promoted from one grade level to the next according to the number of credits they earn. A student needs 5 credits to be considered a sophomore, 10 credits to be considered a junior, and 16 credits to be a senior (the student should also be in the correct 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year of high school).

If my child is sick, do I need to call the school that day?
No, you can write a comment or upload a doctor's note through the ParentVue app. You also have the option of sending a note with your student to give to their first bell teacher when he/she return to school.

If my child is sick, can the school provide the missed work?
If a student is out of school for more than two days, please contact the counselor, and he/she can get the work to you within 24 hours. Students can also use a "buddy system" - contact a friend in each class who can collect missed assignments. Students are also encouraged to check course syllabi on Synergy/Canvas.

How important is attendance?
Attendance is very important. Students not only learn from the written materials but also from the information discussed in class as well as the collaborative activities performed in the learning environment. A student who misses more than nine days in a class will fail the class regardless of his/her grade. Appeals can be made to the Extenuating Circumstances Committee by submitting written documentation (doctors' notes, legal notices, etc.) and an application at the end of the semester. The Extenuating Circumstances Committee will determine whether extenuating circumstances will be granted.

What is the difference between an unexcused absence and an excused absence?
An unexcused absence is an absence where the student has cut or skipped the class. Work missed from an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Unexcused and excused absences *both* count toward the nine-day limit; consequently, teachers will send home absence notifications when a student has missed more than five days. These notifications include both excused and unexcused absences. School field trips do not count toward the nine-day limit. Please note that when a student misses school and a parent/guardian writes a note, this is

classified as an unexcused absence - verified, which means the student did not have a doctor's note, but we are aware that the parent/guardian excused the absence. There is a limit to how many notes we can accept from a parent/guardian. The School Counselors will be working with any students who have five or more unexcused absences. A parent meeting will be called after the fifth absence to create an Attendance Improvement Plan. Students will be referred to the Chesapeake Court System for the 10th unexcused absence. Our goal at IRHS is for students to come to school every day unless they are sick or have scheduled appointments. We also understand emergencies occur in the family, and we are able to work with families as long as they communicate with us at that time.

How will the Standards of Learning (SOLs) affect my child?
All students have to pass a certain number of SOL tests to graduate from high school. A student must pass one math SOL, one history SOL, one science SOL, and the English 11 Reading and Writing SOL tests. The student must also pass the corresponding classes with those SOLs.

What are the graduation requirements?
Standard (22 credit) diploma: 4 credits of English, 3 credits of history, 3 credits of math (at or above Algebra), 3 credits of science, 2 credits of P.E., 2 credits of a fine/practical arts class, 1 credit of Economics, and 4 specific electives.

For the advanced studies (26 credit) diploma, students must pass: 4 credits of English, 4 credits of math (through Algebra II), 4 credits of science, 3 credits of one foreign language or 2 credits of one language and 2 of another language, 4 credits of history, 2 credits of P.E., 1 fine/practical arts credit, 1 credit of Economics, and 3 specific electives.

My child wants to go to college. What classes should he/she take? Are there scholarships?
Students should take at least five core classes each year (English, math, science, history, and usually a foreign language). Honors, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement classes are also recommended for some students, but primarily, good grades in regular or advanced classes are essential for gaining entrance into college. SAT scores, extra-curricular involvement, leadership positions, and recommendations are also considered. Scholarships are usually awarded to students who excel in one or more of the above areas.

When should my child take the SATs, ACTs, and the PSATs?
Students should take the PSAT in October of their junior year because those scores can qualify them for National Merit Scholarships; however, they may take the test earlier. The PSAT AND the SAT will be given one day during the week of October 12, 2026, at Indian River High School. Registration will take place online. Registration deadlines will be announced in early September. Only 9th and 11th graders need to pay and register. All 10th graders can take the test for free and do not need to register. 10th graders will have the option to OPT OUT if they do not want to take the test. The cost is $TBD to take the PSAT or SAT test. The SATs and ACTs are normally taken in the spring of 11th grade and the fall of the senior year. Visit www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org for more information. Please go to the college's website for more details on admissions requirements.

If I have moved recently or plan to move, do I need to let the school know?
Yes. Address changes need to be documented with a current utility bill (water, gas, or electric only) that shows your name, address, and bill. Please make sure you update your current phone number(s) as well. This information should be given to our Guidance Secretary, Ms. Eze. Her e-mail address is nicole.eze@cpschools.com

If I need to pick up my child from school during the day, what do I need to do?

Please come into the school and check out your son/daughter with the attendance secretary, whose office is located across from the main office. If you send a note in with your child and he/she gives it to the attendance secretary before school, he/she will give the student a pass to meet you in the main office at the time of pick up.

What sports are available at IRHS?

Boys:

- Fall Season (Cross Country, Football, Golf, Volleyball, Cheerleading);
- Winter Season (Basketball, Wrestling, Swimming, Winter Track);
- Spring Season (Baseball, Soccer, Track, Tennis)

Girls:

- Fall Season (Cross Country, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Golf);
- Winter Season (Basketball, Gymnastics, Swimming, Winter Track);
- Spring Season (Tennis, Softball, Soccer, Track)

Typically, the Winter Season starts around November 1, and the Spring Season starts in the middle of February. Athletes need to get a physical prior to the start of the season.

What is the 2.0 eligibility rule?

Current 10th – 12th graders must have a 2.0 cumulative high school grade point average or a 2.0 GPA for the previous semester to be eligible to play high school sports. Students must also pass three classes the previous semester and be enrolled in three credit-bearing classes in the current semester to be eligible for sports.

What is the grading scale?

	A 93-100	A- 90-92
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 64-66	
E 0-63		

How does my child obtain a worker's permit?

Students who are 14 or 15 years old and wish to work must obtain a worker's permit from https://doli.virginia.gov/labor-law-youth-employment/

When can my child drive?

Students who are the proper age can receive their learner's permit from DMV by taking their social security card, birth certificate, and a parent/guardian to DMV. Your child must pass the written test. Free booklets are available at DMV. Driver's Education (classroom only) is taught through the PE II classes. Driver's Education is NOT offered in PE II through CVA (Chesapeake Virtual Academy)

Where can I find more information about graduation requirements, class offerings, and other things related to my student and Chesapeake Public Schools?

Please click on the following link that will take you to the Chesapeake Secondary School Catalog

How can my student get a copy of his/her transcript?

All Chesapeake students can order a free transcript by making the request at www.parchment.com
Please note that we are now using Parchment again and directions on how students can create their account are located on the IRHS website (click MENU and then School Counseling).

How can my student get involved with clubs?

There will be a Club Rush period in early September. The SCA will set up tables for all clubs, and students will be able to get information and applications during lunches. For more information about any particular club, please contact the SCA Sponsor/Student Activities Director, Ms. Farrell, at debbie.farrell@cpschools.com