



## Acronyms/School Jargon

Welcome to Issaquah High School! This document lists acronyms and school jargon that the PTSA has compiled. If you have suggestions for more words, email [issaquahhighptsa@gmail.com](mailto:issaquahhighptsa@gmail.com).

**504s** - The word "504" refers to Section 504 of a federal law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Students with a 504 plan may request accommodations from the school such as handouts of lectures or extra time on tests.

**ACT** - American College Testing. One of the standardized tests for US college applications. Typically taken in the winter/spring of the junior year or fall of the senior. Students sometimes take both the SAT and the ACT and submit the better score to colleges. (<https://www.act.org/>) Many colleges have become test-optional since COVID.

**ADD** - Attention Deficit Disorder

**ADHD** - Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder.

**Angel Program** - A PTSA program that supplies weekend food and other items (e.g. shampoo & clothes) to students who request them. The Angel Closet is open every Friday afternoon during the school year and staffed by PTSA volunteers. (<https://issaquahhighptsa.org/Page/Programpages/Angel%20Program>)

**ANGP** - All-Night Graduation Party for seniors organized by the PTSA. Held the night of graduation. Scholarships are always available for PTSA events.

**AP** - Assistant Principal (<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/staff/administration> )

**AP Course** - Advanced Placement course. This is a college-level course at IHS that has a national exam in May. A passing score (especially a 4 or 5 out of 5) can earn you college credit. For example, a 4 on the AP Chemistry Exam will let you bypass two quarters of chemistry at UW.

**ASB** - Associated Student Body. School-run student organization that runs Homecoming, dances, spirit weeks, clubs, etc. When you purchase an ASB card, this supports the school clubs and sports. (<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/activities>)

Here is a flier explaining the difference between ASB, Boosters, PTSA, and ISF  
([https://issaquahhighptsa.org/Doc/IHPTSA%20Docs/2020\\_2021\\_Issaquah\\_High\\_PTSA\\_v\\_ASB\\_v\\_ISF\\_v\\_Bo.pdf](https://issaquahhighptsa.org/Doc/IHPTSA%20Docs/2020_2021_Issaquah_High_PTSA_v_ASB_v_ISF_v_Bo.pdf))

**BC** - Bellevue College, a local community college that students use for Running Start  
(<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu>)

**Block days** - At IHS, the schedule for Monday, Thursday, and Friday is periods 1-7. For block days, the periods are longer (~80 minutes). Tuesday has periods 1, homeroom, 3, 5, and 7. Wednesday has periods 2, 4, 6, and iVision/Flex.  
<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/our-school/bell-schedules>

**BOD** - Board of Directors. Refers to the governing body of an organization. For the PTSA, this consists of both elected positions (Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and VPs of Events, Programs, Outreach, Hospitality, and Communication) and also appointed positions (Directors of Membership & Advocacy).

**Boosters** - The IHS Booster Club partners with ASB to support IHS students extra-curricular passions outside the classroom, including sports, clubs, and activities. They fundraise through selling logowear and concessions at sport games. (<http://ihsboosters.org>)

**Campus Security** - This IHS person is in charge of safety and security on campus and has an office in the IHS main office. He reports to the Director of Safety and Security at ISD. Unlike a police officer, he can search cars and lockers without a warrant.

**Canvas** - Student portal to classes. Parents may also monitor Canvas submissions by students and grades. (<https://www.isd411.org/portals/grades-6-12>)

**CCC** - College and Career Center. Parents and/or students may make an appointment with the IHS staff at the CCC. A wealth of information is on their website (<https://sites.google.com/site/issaquahhscce>). The CCC runs the Senior Exit Interviews and the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP), both required for graduation. They also invite college admission officers to talk with juniors and seniors; meet-and-greets are posted on their calendar. Their office is in the library. ([ihscollegeandcareer@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:ihscollegeandcareer@issaquah.wednet.edu))

**Certificated** - Teachers, counselors, principal, and assistant principals. Certificated staff have an educator's certificate.

**Classified** - Non-certificated staff (e.g. administrative assistants, nurses, custodians)

**Clubs** - Clubs are after-school, extra-curricular activities. They receive funding from ASB and have a teacher sponsor. There is a club fair every October during school hours  
(<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/activities>).

**Club sports** - These are private sport teams coached by professionals, outside of IHS. Typically, you need to try out to make the team and pay a fee, if accepted.

**Committee Chair** - A PTSA leader who organizes other volunteers on a committee, focusing on one area (e.g. PTSA grants).

**Community Service Hours** - These are optional volunteer hours that you may report to the PTSA to obtain an honor cord that may be worn at graduation as well as recognition in the graduation brochure. The 100 hours must be reported by May 1 of the senior year.  
(<http://issaquahhighptsa.org/Page/Pta/Community%20Service>)

**Council PTSA** - District-level PTSA (<http://www.issaquahptsa.org>)

**Counseling Department** - The IHS Counselors are mental health and academic counselors. They can change your course schedule, give social and emotional support, and submit the “School Counselor Letter” that is required for college applications. They also handle transcripts, new enrollments, and Running Start. Students and/or parents may make appointments. Their office is on the second floor, directly above the main office.  
(<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/counseling>)

**Credit** - At IHS, any year-long course is worth one credit. A semester course is worth ½ credit. To graduate from a Washington State public high school, you need 24 credits. At IHS, some of these credits need to be in certain categories. For example, you need 1-½ credits (3 semesters) of PE to graduate.

**CTE** - Career and Technical Education Courses. In the past, students had to complete two semesters of CTE to graduate. Graduation requirements are at <https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/counseling/academics/graduation-requirements> . Students can apply for college credit as well as high school credit for CTE courses.

**Cultural Bridges** - an Issaquah Schools Foundation program that helps build relationships between families from diverse cultures and languages through outreach, events, mentoring, translation services and a magazine published in 7 languages  
(<http://isfdn.org/our-purpose/advancing-academic-achievement5/cultural-bridges/>  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CBforeducation/> )

**CWU** - Central Washington University (referred to as “Central”). (<https://www.cwu.edu/>) Located in Ellensburg.

**Eagle Crew** - ASB leaders who organize welcome activities for 9th graders

**EVP** - Formerly known as Registration Student Verification Process, the high school online fall registration. All students must register even if they already chose classes in the spring.

**EWU** - Eastern Washington University (referred to as “Eastern”). (<https://www.ewu.edu/>)  
Located in Eastern Washington in Cheney.

**FACE** - Family And Community Engagement, a PTSA committee that focuses on translations and under-represented groups  
(<http://issaquahhighptsa.org/Page/Programpages/Family%20and%20Community%20engagement>  
[nt](#))

**FC** - Football Club. Refers to soccer.

**FLASH** - Family Life and Sexual Health. In ISD, this is the sex education portion of health classes. ISD allows parents to review the material ahead of time and opt out.

**Flex/flextime** - Extra time on Wednesday during school when a student can request help from a teacher or schedule a make-up test.

**FPT** - Family Partnership Team, a district-level group that focuses on inclusivity  
(<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/equity>)

**FT or F/T or FTE** - Full-time employee. Refers to teachers and staff. A staff with 0.6FT works three days a week.

**Freshmen (or frosh)** - First year students. 9th graders at high school.

**Friends of Youth** - A non-profit organization that helps with emergency shelter, parenting, and substance abuse. They run the only overnight shelter for youth on the Eastside.  
<https://friendsofyouth.org/>

**The Garage** - A non-profit, safe, community drop-in space for high school teens. Located next to the Issaquah Community Center. (<https://www.issaquahteencafe.org/>)

**GMM**- General Membership Meeting. This meeting is open to the public, members and non-members alike. For the PTSA, the GMM has PTSA business as well as guest speakers. Meeting dates are posted on our calendar at <https://issaquahhighptsa.org> .

**GPA** - Grade Point Average. At IHS, an “A” is a 4.0, “A-” 3.7, “B+” 3.4, “B” 3.0 and so on. AP courses are not weighted (at some high schools, an “A” in an AP course would count as a 5.0), although some teachers will bump up the grade in June if the student scores well on the AP

exam. IHS tells colleges that the GPA is unweighted on the transcript (as are all Washington State high schools).

**Homecoming Week** - Week of school spirit activities that culminates in a home football game (Friday) and semi-formal Homecoming dance (Saturday). This is typically in September or October.

**Homeroom** - Time on Tuesdays when non-academic subjects are taught (e.g. SEL lessons).

**HSBP** - High School and Beyond Plan. This is a required plan to graduate, done mostly during school hours. Run by IHS College and Career Center.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/issaquahhsccc/h-s-beyond-plan>). IHS uses the program Xello for this.

**IB or International Baccalaureate** - This is a college-level program not offered at IHS. IHS instead offers AP courses and Running Start.

**IEP** - Individual Education Plan. The IEP is an annual plan to make sure that students with disabilities are progressing through the school year. Students with an IEP have yearly parent/teacher/counselor/admin conferences.

**IFCB**- Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank (<https://issaquahfoodbank.org>). They supply the weekend food bags in the PTSA Angel Closet that is open to any student.

**IHS** - Issaquah High School! (<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/issaquahhs>)

**Influence the Choice** - A non-profit, community organization dedicated to preventing substance abuse and promoting the mental, physical, and social wellness of youth. By surveying ISD students on substance abuse, they confirm that most youth do not engage in substance abuse and they promote positive community norms. (<https://www.influencethechoice.org/>)

**ISD** - Issaquah School District (<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu>)

**ISF** - Issaquah Schools Foundation. A district-wide fundraising group that supports an incredible amount outside of the basic education that the state provides. (<http://isfdn.org>)

**iVision** - IHS TV. This is a class that produces a TV broadcast for the school once a week.

**JV** - Junior Varsity. This is the feeder team to the Varsity Team. Freshmen will typically be on the JV team instead of the varsity team.

**Juniors** - Third year students. 11th graders in high school

**LGBTQ+** - Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and others (e.g. Asexual, Non-binary)

**LRC** - Learning Resource Center. This is a place where students with special learning needs can visit throughout the day to have one-on-one or small group interaction.

**LRC II** - Students with moderate to severe disabilities who receive specially designed instruction in all areas. Participation in general education class will occur as designated in the IEP.

**Mock Test** - This is a PTSA-run practice test for the ACT and SAT, administered by Huntington Learning Center, that happens in September and January. This is different from the school-run PSAT in October that is a national test and a qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship. Scholarships are available for the PTSA exams.

(<http://issaquahhighptsa.org/Page/SATACT/Practice%20Tests>)

**Nest** - The old name for Flextime. Since the IHS mascot is the Eagle, Nest refers to a nurturing time of growth when students could ask teachers for extra help on Wednesday afternoons.

**New Family Connections** - formerly known as New Family Ambassadors. This PTSA program hosts monthly get-togethers as well as matches newcomers to the area with more experienced IHS parents. All are welcome as long as you are willing to make new friends.

(<https://issaquahhighptsa.org/Page/Programpages/New%20Family%20Connections>)

**OSPI** - Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (<https://www.k12.wa.us>). This is the government department in charge of public education in Washington State. The Issaquah School District will wait for an official statement from OSPI before deciding policy (e.g. the grading system under COVID-19). OSPI also collects data and gives report cards on schools (<https://washingtonstaterreportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>).

**PT or P/T or PTE** - Part-time employee.

**Paras** - Paraeducators. ISD adult helpers in the classroom. They are often assigned to students with IEPs or 504s.

**ParentWiser** - A district PTSA program that brings national speakers to the Issaquah area for parent education. Events are free to PTSA members. (<https://www.parentwiser.org/events>)

**Pass-the-Hat** - Yearly PTSA fundraiser during fall registration. This funds PTSA activities during the school year including grants, college and career planning speakers, and staff appreciation. (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/IssaquahHighPTSA>)

**PE** - Physical Education. Students at IHS are required to have 3 semesters of PE to graduate. Sports may count towards partial credit, but you must receive approval ahead of time.

**PSAT** - Preliminary SAT (Standardized Achievement Test). This national test is given to all 10th and 11th graders at IHS, typically the second Wednesday in October. For juniors, this is a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship. The PSAT is not the practice ACT/SAT tests run by the PTSA and Huntington Learning Center.

(<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>)

**PTA** - Parent-Teacher Association (<https://www.pta.org/>). Same as PTSA.

**PTSA** - Parent-Teacher-Student Association (used interchangeably with PTA). The IH PTSA focuses on supporting student health and academic experiences at IHS to allow them to reach their full potential inside the classroom.

PTSA programs & events include the Angel Program, Healthy Students, School Grants, Senior Scholarships, Community Service Graduation Honor Cords, Teacher Reimbursements, Staff Appreciation, Family and Community Engagement, New Family Connections/Ambassadors, College and Career Planning, Parent Education, New to IHS Night, and Senior events (All-Night Grad Party, Breakfast, Farewell). The PTSA also supplies volunteers to the school for school events such as Picture Day, Textbook Day, and Senior Exit Interviews to name a few.

(<http://issaquahhighptsa.org>)

**Recreational Sports** - A more casual sports league with lower fees and no try-outs as compared to Club Sports.

**Reflections** - National PTA Art Contest. Many IHS students have made it to nationals. Due late Oct/early Nov. (<http://issaquahhighptsa.org/Page/Programpages/Reflections>)

**RSVP** - Registration Student Verification Process, the old name for EVP. High school registration in the fall.

**Running Start** - Available program for juniors and seniors (application in sophomore spring). Students may sign up to take classes at Bellevue College but must provide their own transportation. They can be part or full-time. Grades from Bellevue College may not transfer out-of-state to private schools. In-state schools such as UW will accept Bellevue College courses. (<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/counseling/running-start>)

**Salmon Days** - An Issaquah festival held the 1st weekend in October. Over 200,000+ people usually attend. Many IHS organizations participate in the 10 AM Saturday parade and host booths. Issaquah High and Issaquah Middle PTSAs host a parking lot fundraiser at IHS.

**SAT** - Standardized Achievement Test. One of the standardized tests for US college applications. Typically taken in the winter/spring of the junior year or fall of the senior. Students sometimes take both the SAT and the ACT and submit the better score to colleges.

(<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>)



**School Board** - A group of elected officials who make decisions regarding the school district such as the budget (how many teachers to hire) or how many courses a high school can offer in a day. The twice monthly meetings are open to the public.

<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/school-board> . The District Superintendent reports to the School Board.

**School Resource Officer** - This is the official Issaquah police officer that has been assigned to IHS. His office is shared with the Campus Security personnel in the main office. As a police officer, he can issue tickets and make arrests. Unlike campus security, he cannot search cars and lockers without a warrant. This position is currently unfilled by the Issaquah Police Department.

**SEL** - Social and Emotional Learning. These are required, non-academic but vital lessons for the students (e.g. how to recognize biases and microaggressions). Typically held on Tuesdays during homeroom..

**Seniors** - Fourth year students. 12th graders in high school.

**Sophomores** - Second year students. 10th graders in high school.

**Standing Rules** - Rules that govern what an organization does. For the PTSA, our rules are at [https://issaquahhighptsa.org/Doc/IHPTSA%20Docs/2021-22%20Standing%20Rules\\_Approved%202.pdf](https://issaquahhighptsa.org/Doc/IHPTSA%20Docs/2021-22%20Standing%20Rules_Approved%202.pdf)

**Skyward** - ISD's Family Access portal to student classes and grades.  
(<https://www.isd411.org/portals/family-access>)

**STEAM** - A variation on STEM. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math

**STEM** - Things relating to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

**Summer School** - An optional program to take credit courses over the summer  
(<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/summer-school/high-school>)

**Superintendent** - The top person in charge of a school district. This person makes recommendations to the School Board (e.g. school start times) and decides things such as when school is called off due to snow.

**Swingin' in Vienna** - A community swing dance held at IHS with music from the IHS Jazz Band and the ISD Evergreen Honor Orchestra. Typically held the first or second Saturday in February.



**Tailgate** - Generically, a parking lot gathering before a sports game that often involves alcohol. At IHS, there is a freshmen tailgate sponsored by ASB an hour before the first home football game. Usually, pizza and water are served.

**Tier I, II, III** - Different categories of students needing support. 80% of students are considered Tier I. They learn under regular classroom procedures. Tier II students require some intervention (such as small group pull-out lessons). Tier III students require one-on-one help.

**Title IX** - pronounced "Title Nine." This refers to a federal law that prohibits sex or gender-based discrimination in all educational activities or programs, including sports.

**TOLO** - Spring dance in March/April run by ASB where the girl asks the guy out. TOLO comes from a Pacific Northwest Chinook word.

**TOSA** - Teacher on Special Assignment

**Touchbase** - IHS online payment system (<https://wa-issaquah.intouchrecepting.com/>). If you do not want to pay online, you can see the IHS Bookkeeper at the school.

**UW** - University of Washington (<https://www.washington.edu>). Located in Seattle with satellite campuses in Bothell and Tacoma.

**Varsity** - The principal school team for a sport. For example, Varsity Football will have the most experienced players on it.

**VIS** - Volunteers for Issaquah Schools. Supports bonds and levies. (<http://www.visvote.org>)

**Voice Mentors** - After-school tutors, usually adults. Program is run by ISD (<https://www.isd411.org/get-involved/voice-mentor-program>)

**WANIC** - Washington Network Innovative Careers. These are optional classes available at area schools (ISD and outside). Examples include careers in dentistry, firefighting, nursing, automotive, video game programming, and culinary arts. IHS hosts Sports Medicine and Sign Language classes. <https://sites.google.com/site/issaquahhsccc/opportunities/wanic>

**Winterfest** - Week of school spirit activities in December, highlighted by a school assembly where Winterfest wishes come true. Students and teachers may submit wishes which are then displayed in the main office, a week prior to the assembly. This event is run by ASB.

**WSPTA** - Washington State PTA (<https://www.wastatepta.org>)

**WSU** - Washington State University (nickname, Wazzu - pronounced Wah-zoo). (<https://wsu.edu/>) Located in Eastern Washington in Pullman.

**WUE** - Western Undergraduate Exchange (pronounced Woo-ee). A consortium of colleges in the western United States where you can pay lower fees to attend out-of-state schools. (<https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/>)

**WWU** Western Washington University (referred to as "Western"). (<https://www.wwu.edu/>) Located north of Seattle in Bellingham near the Canadian border.