

# Lights, Camera, Leadership!

**North District**

**Blackhawk Middle  
School, Bensenville, IL**

**6, 7, 8 Grade**

**650+ Students**

**Mascot: Indian or Hawk**

**School Colors: Green, White, and Gold**

**Student Council Advisors: Ms. Julie Zabel, Ms. Anne Siniscalchi, Ms. Nicole Messina**



Blackhawk Middle School is a proud member of the IAJHSC. Our council consists of approximately 60-70 students in 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Our general council meets on the first Monday of every month after school from 3-4PM. We have various committee meetings at different times throughout the month when necessary. Our council is dedicated to providing a positive atmosphere where everyone is welcome and accepted. We promote positive school spirit and active community involvement. Once a student completes a petition, he/she is accepted into our council. Officers are elected at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level only. These three students run the general meetings and facilitate committees.

Every meeting starts with some kind of energizer to promote active participation and team building. Sometimes we build balloon towers or play Alligator River, while other times, we make ornaments for the community tree or flyers for upcoming events. Whatever it is, we all work together to accomplish a goal. Advisors feel we need these energizers to get the students motivated after a long day of school. Our council needs to have fun while getting things done!

Throughout the year, we participate in many school and community activities. Each month we make sure to acknowledge our staff with some kind of gift, note, or treat. Our staff needs to be recognized for all the work they do each day. The gifts range from treats in the workroom to hand-delivered notes to the classrooms. Our staff truly appreciates our small gestures of gratitude. In May, we also celebrate Staff Appreciation Week. Our council organizes activities every day that focus on our staff. One of our favorites is when students travel room to room with a "Room Service" cart where teachers can choose coffee, juice, or breakfast treats to start their day. It's a great way to kick off a wonderful and fulfilling week.

One of our biggest and most successful fundraisers is our "Be a Sucker for Charity" promotion. We set up a sucker stand in the front of the school every Monday and Wednesday after school. There are a variety of flavored suckers for sale for 75 cents. We actually had to set up barriers to form lines because it was so chaotic. The suckers sold out after only two weeks. It was a fast and fun way to raise



money. Throughout the year, we also sponsor fundraisers such as “Pens for Friends” and “A Bud for a Bud.” This year we also sponsored “I’ve Got a Crush on You” for Valentine’s Day. Students purchased Crush soda cans for 1.00 with a special message to a friend. Our school loves to send treats and fun messages to friends.

In the community our council participates in decorating a tree in the community square for the holidays, Student Government Day, Holiday Toy Drive and Grand Wrapping Day, and our “I CAN” food drive. Students participate in a neighborhood canned food drive after school. We also encourage homerooms to participate by sponsoring a contest. We call it The Blackhawk 1000—trying to reach a goal of over 1000 canned goods. Whatever we are working on, our council always tries to do our best to stay positive and successful.



Being a part of IAJHSC has been extremely beneficial for our council. We were able to host a workshop at our school and travel to other schools in our district. Our workshop kicked off the school year and helped us establish a focus for the year. This gave our kids the opportunity to meet other students and build leadership skills. The IAJHSC offers us the opportunity to stay organized and participate in state charities. It helps us build unity and teamwork not only with our council, but with the entire state of Illinois. The convention is a fabulous way for students to see leadership in action. It is a great way to celebrate our successes and meet all the schools in the IAJHSC.

Student Council is a big part of our school. Activities like Spirit Week and Pack the Gym help us promote school unity and pride. Without student council, our school would be a boring place. We are lucky to have a great council that builds useful and fun skills for a successful future.

