

THE ANVIL

August/September 2026
Issue One

SPECIAL REPORT

CRUCIBLE AND FORGING CAMPS

pg. 9

Soccer and
Cross-Country
Begin

Meet the
6th Graders

The All-New
Anvil



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THE ALL-NEW ANVIL

Iron students, parents, and staff: the students in the Communications class are proud to present this year's all-new *Anvil*. We have several changes planned and even already implemented, focused on quality, relevance, and consistency.

First, *The Anvil* has been fully reworked to provide consistent, engaging articles on school events, sports, and culture. Upcoming events, along with information on previous

ones will be highlighted every month. The sports section now includes interviews with athletes and highlights from our sports teams. Coming to the newsletter is a look inside the hearts and minds of Iron Swordsmen, with our content reviews and advice column. In addition, Dr. Hahn will be writing a monthly "Doctor's Note."

Most importantly, *The Anvil* is now offered both as a printed copy and a digital copy. Print copies of *The Anvil*

will be available in-school and at carline on the first school day of every month at no charge. Digital copies will be sent out soon afterwards via email and on the Iron app. This year, our goal at *The Anvil* is to provide helpful, consistent content with parents and students in mind every month.

Isaac Northington
is the editor in chief
of *The Anvil*.

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS



JOSEPH ARNOLD

Before becoming a teacher, Mr. Arnold served in the United States Air Force and retired after 20 years of service, where he specialized in Avionics and Navigation Systems for reconnaissance and special mission aircraft.

Mr. Arnold says, "Education has always been an important part of my journey... After retiring from the Air Force, I felt called to serve in a different way and entered the field of education. For the past five years, I have taught Engineering and Design in the public school system... I consider it a privilege to walk alongside these young men as they grow academically, personally, and spiritually."



SCOTT JORDAN

Mr. Jordan has been teaching since 2019, and has worked with youth and families in various capacities for more than 20 years.

Mr. Jordan says, "I am honored to partner with you to build an enduring foundation for our sons to become God's agents to stand and lead in changing our world... I have a beautiful, patient wife and together we have 4 children. In my free time, I enjoy waterfall hunting with my family, playing disc golf, and seeking out new and different combinations of chocolate and coffee!"

The Anvil is written, produced, and published by the Iron Academy Communications class.

As part of an academic institution, *The Anvil* is dedicated to human work, thought, and ideation. No AI was or will be used in research, design, or writing.

Neither *The Anvil* or Iron Academy are responsible for the actions, ideas, or general notions of those who read the *Bad Advice Column* on page fourteen.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Isaac Northington

CULTURE EDITOR
Miles Lipsey

PUBLISHER
Patrick Billingshurst

LAYOUT DESIGNER
Isaac Northington

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT
Julian Negron

EVENTS CORRESPONDENT
Galen Burbridge

PHOTOGRAPHY
Miles Lipsey

REPORTERS
Galen Burbridge
Julian Negron

CONTRIBUTORS
Emily Chuchta
Chase Graham
Daniel Bamford

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/03	MS Soccer vs Oak City (Home)	9/17	Mystery Field Trip
9/03	Cross Country @ CLA	9/17	Cross Country @ Fletcher
9/07	Labor Day No School	9/18	MS Soccer @ Southside
9/08	MS Soccer @ Raleigh Christian	9/24	Cross Country @ Haw River
9/09	Challenge Coin Ceremony	9/24	MS Soccer @ Fletcher
9/11	MS Soccer vs Bethesda (Home)	9/25	Accountability Day

COLLEGE CORNER

For the Graduating Classes of 2025 and 2026:

- 100% 4-year college/university acceptance rate
- Multiple acceptances into NC State University, other UNC system schools (Charlotte, Asheville, Wilmington), Appalachian State, Liberty University, Campbell University, etc.)

IA Alumni have successfully graduated from:

- NC State University
- Queens University
- Judson College
- Wake Technical Community College
- Tennessee College of Applied Techn.
- American College of the Building Arts
- Liberty University

Iron Academy Summary of Testing Data 2025-2026				
Iowa Testing Grades 6-9	IA NPR Average	83% - Well Above Average		
	IA students scored as well as or better than 83% of students nationally with 64% of our students in the 75-9v9 NPR range.			
PSAT Grades 10-11	IA Total	Reading/Writing		Math
	1136	585		551
ACT Grade 11-12	Composite	English	Math	Reading
IA	23.3	22.2	23.4	24.5
NC	19.4	Not yet available		
US	18.5	18.4	18.9	20
SAT	Total	Reading/Writing		Math
IA	1266	640		626
Global	1064	534		530
US	1045	530		515
AP Calculus AB		Percentage of Students Scoring 3 or Higher		
IA		83.3		
NC		63.3		
Global		65.8		

KICKING OFF FALL SPORTS

Julian Negron
is the sports correspondent
at *The Anvil*.

It's the beginning of the school year, meaning that sports begin anew! This Fall we have soccer and cross country as our staple sports. This sporting season is short, so enjoy it while you can! Let's kick things off with the Soccer team. Coach (Mr.) Anderson is coaching this year and is prepared to lead these young men to victory. Practice is held down at Laurel Hills Park, preparing them for the ten games they will be playing through October. Last year, our high school and middle school teams packed a punch and were able to bring home many wins. While we do not have a varsity team, we have a tenacious middle school

team ready to step up when the time comes. We are excited for what soccer will bring us in the future!

On the other end of sports this season is cross country. Coach Mitchell will be coaching this season for cross country, with Mr. Lapinskes accompanying some practices. Mr. Lapinskes is actually a returning runner of Iron Academy, so he will be helping the team by imparting his running wisdom. Practice is largely held at school, but the team is no stranger to practicing in different locations. This year, cross country has eight meets that will be held until October as well. Last year, the Cross Country team ran well, with many of our runners making state champion. The cross country team has a long road ahead of them, but their determination is unyielding!

Throughout this fall season and the additional sports to come, our athletes will grow stronger. Not only in physical strength, but in mental and spiritual fortitude. It's important for our athletes to

"I love soccer, I always have, it's just fun!"

Caleb Lindstrom
8th grader, Iron Academy

remember their conduct, and to glorify God in their actions. I trust the Iron Academy young men to uphold this duty and have fun while doing it. Let's kick off this school year well!

"I'm excited for the opportunity and privilege to run this year."

Tucker Root
10th grader, Iron Academy



MEET THE SIXTH GRADERS

Every year, Iron Academy receives a crop of new sixth graders, ready to be forged into men. The sixth grade is the youngest grade at Iron Academy. Fresh out of Crucible Camp, they are thrust into an unfamiliar setting from an elementary school and their existing friend groups into a school with burpees and real responsibility,

with peers they don't know. The sixth grade at Iron is easily one of the most difficult grades to be in at Iron, with the supposed requirement to prove yourself to your peers, other students, and staff. Sixth grade can either be the "problem grade" or set a real example for this school, and this year, I think this is one of the best

sixth grades we have had. The change from a non-Biblically focused school to Iron Academy is one of the hardest things a sixth grader can experience, and I can say they are executing it with excellence.

Miles Lipsey
is the culture
editor at *The Anvil*.



**AXEL
LEANHARDT**

- Favorite food: Pizza
- Favorite hobby: Basketball
- Fun fact: Speaks spanish
- Wants to attend college after high school
- Previously attended Stough Elementary



**LENNON
MITCHELL**

- Favorite food: Hot dogs
- Favorite hobby: Soccer
- Fun fact: Can count to ten in spanish
- Wants to be a pastor or a lawyer after high school



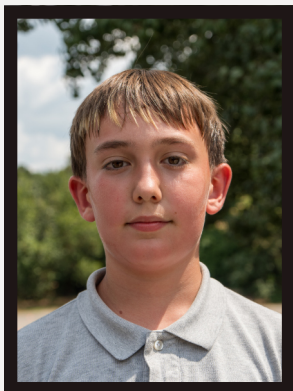
**JACKSON
HICKS**

- Favorite food: Ribs
- Favorite hobby: Hunting
- Fun fact: Likes to eat
- Wants to train hunting dogs after high school
- Previously attended Neuse Christian



**BANKS
RUNKLE**

- Favorite food: Crab
- Favorite hobby: Video games
- Fun fact: Born in a snow-storm
- Wants to play baseball for NC State
- Previously attended York Elementary



AIDAN TAYLOR

- Favorite food: Salad with vinaigrette dressing
- Favorite hobby: Tennis
- Fun fact: Never broken a bone
- Goals after high school: find a wife
- Previously attended HLA



SETH INGALLS

- Favorite food: Bacon with bacon bits
- Favorite hobby: Capture the Flag
- Fun fact: Seth can climb better than a monkey
- Wants to attend college after high school



CALEB GRAHAM

- Favorite food: Cheeseburgers
- Favorite hobby: Baseball
- Fun fact: Good at wakeboarding
- Wants to attend college after high school
- Previously attended Green Hope Elementary



LEE ROULHAC

- Favorite food: Burger King chicken sandwiches
- Favorite hobby: Soccer
- Fun fact: Immune to poison ivy
- Wants to play professional soccer
- Previously was homeschooled



EVAN LINDSTROM

- Favorite food: Ketchup
- Favorite hobby: Playing video games or outside games
- Fun fact: 30% Viking
- Wants to get a Master's in architectural engineering from NC State



PATTON CATO

- Favorite food: Chicken parmesan
- Favorite hobby: Sports and video games
- Fun fact: Patton plays football, basketball, and baseball
- Wants to be an NFL player or engineer



SAMUEL NORRIS

- Favorite food: Pizza
- Favorite hobby: Shooting guns
- Fun fact: Enjoys every sport
- Wants to attend college after high school
- Previously attended Carver Elementary



BLAKE BELL

- Previously attended Neuse Christian
- Favorite food: Pie
- Favorite hobby: "cars"
- Blake wants to be a car mechanic after high school



CRUCIBLE CAMP AND FORGING CAMP RECAP

Galen Burbridge
is the events
editor at *The Anvil*.

CRUCIBLE CAMP is an amazing way to start a great school year at a great school. It is a five-day long camp that tests students' true grit and character. There is always so much fun to be had at Crucible Camp, like the pool, lake, or just hanging out with some new friends and squires.

Crucible Camp is a great place for bonding too. Students will get paired with a squire, who is an upper-class student who will help with getting used to the school culture. Students will also meet all the other new students and will spend the rest of the week getting intricately

acquainted with them, so they will not be completely lost on their first day, and students will already know their classmates and a few older guys which makes it way easier to start at Iron Academy.

During Crucible, campers will endure and overcome many challenges like carrying fellow students on bamboo around the lake while exchanging who is on the bamboo pole.

On Tuesday, students will go into the forest and do a bunch of challenges like a balance beam and more. The final challenge is a ten-to-twelve-foot-tall wooden wall in which students will help their brothers overcome. Each person

could only help two others up the wall, which made it have an interesting strategy element to it. This was a great exercise for growing teamwork, strategy, and a sense of massive achievement. Another challenge involving students carrying fellow students across canoes that get increasingly higher after they finish one.

On Thursday, campers play Infection, where they must survive the "zombies" while they try to stop them from gaining the parts of the cure, signified by colored paint, that are needed. There is some free time at this camp, but there are also many challenges. One of the days, campers will get a lot of time in the pool and



Forging Camp is a step up from Crucible Camp, for students going into high school. It is a survival camp on Black Mountain where students build structures of logs, tarps, and paracord. Forging is led by an instructor who will help students learn to build all the structure they need while also letting them get lots of hands-on experience. Campers learn how to build an A-frame shelter, along with a free-standing tent

"I got to sleep on the ground for a whole week!"

- Jack Bamford, with great enthusiasm after returning from Forging camp



lake, which is a nice break from the constant tough activity, and it is very fun.

During Thursday night, the young Swordsmen will walk to a fire pit, get sorted into tribes, and learn about the mighty men of David who the tribes were names after: Shammah, Josheb, and Eleazar. On the last day, students will complete The Rock, a multi-mile trek with a massive rock attached to bamboo that they carry with a few fellow students. It is a grueling trek, but there are rest at spots along the path where they listen to a small spiritual message from someone. Over the week, campers also get to eat great meals, have free time in fun places, and just hang out.

between two trees. Campers also must dig a rudimentary trench "bathroom" and get their own water with filters from the creek near the camp. On the second day, students get a knife to use for the trip and then keep it as a trophy of completion for the camp.

Each morning, students will make a fire and cook their meals on the fire with a pot or stick, and each evening camper get more of their food around the fire and hear a spiritual message by Mr. Anderson. Over the course of the week, campers will learn many survival tips like how to make fire, how to find food, and how to signal planes from the ground with something reflective. They also show the Swordsmen how to use tools like a flint and steel, knives, and

more for survival. During the week, the students get a lot of time to connect with fellow students and teachers and get to know them much better. It is a great time to connect deeper with others and use teamwork to do rough tasks. There is also a lot of free time to just hang out with people and get to know them on a deeper level.

On the final day, students must use a compass and a topographical map to calculate the direction and distance for a long hike. They must trek through the forest and up a mountain while keeping on track with their fellow

students. There is an amazing view on the top of Black Mountain overlooking the camp and surrounding area. Then students will hike back down using a path that leads straight into the camp. The path is a few miles on a mountain in both directions. This is a great exercise for training endurance, teamwork, map reading, and compass skills. On the final night, students go to a secluded spot alone and make a structure only with what is around and some basic supplies without any help. It is a great test of what the swordsmen have learned over the week and tests students' grit and resourcefulness.

Forging Camp may be very rough, but it is rewarding to be able to overcome the many challenges of life.

All in all, Crucible Camp and Forging Camp are a big part of Iron Academy culture. Every student remembers when they carried the rock, and the exciting, terrible, and funny things that happened to them at camp. Iron Academy's camps are the training ground for the real world, a world that requires endurance, grit, and perseverance that can only be given by God.



REVIEWS OF THE MONTH

Any content or opinions shared in the Reviews of the Month may not reflect Iron culture or be endorsed or approved by Iron staff.

If you have thoughts and opinions about a movie, a television show, a book, or other piece of content and would like to have them published, please email theanvil@ironacademy.org.

HOGWARTS LEGACY

Patrick Billingshurst is an English teacher at Iron Academy and the publisher.

Hogwarts Legacy was originally released in 2023 at a time when most of us were asking each other through facemasks, "Do we still need to be wearing these things?" Back then, China was "not" flying surveillance balloons across our country, Elon renamed Twitter but not tweets, and money was awful tight, so I let Hogwarts Legacy pass me by, probably in favor of some other Skyrim rerelease. Portkey Games released it on Switch 2 at the beginning of last summer, so I thought it was a perfect time to put on my school robes and pretend that witchcraft is totally different if performed with charming British accents.

The game borrows the setting of Rowling's novels to establish a different storyline with different characters. You play a fifteen-year-old boy or girl (type 1 or type 2, since the game is forward-thinking) who attends

the school in Victorian Scotland. The majority of the game is spent odd-jobbing in and around Hogwarts Castle, pursuing the main storyline, and going to class whenever it jolly well suits you. There is no hurry to do anything in the game. There are no consequences for playing the game badly. You can even turn off the spiders in the setting of the game. Legacy asks very little of the player and would hardly be anything to write about in the context of modern gaming, if not for the game's astounding lack of moral clarity.

After some time with the game, you are invited by your house elf (read "indentured servant") to go and "rescue" some woodland critters by stuffing them into a bag and tossing them into your Room of Requirement (read "prison of your own making"). You can then breed your rescues (read "hostages") and sell their offspring for gold (read "clothes money"), all of

which is made more hilarious in that you slay dozens of adults for the alleged crime poaching and the possible crime of loitering. The developer's willful obliviousness extends to the setting itself, filling Victorian Scotland with levels of diversity and inclusion that defy both logic and magic.

In all, Hogwarts Legacy delivers the sort of experience that might be entrancing to fans of the books and movies, but as a game and as a piece of art it fails to stand apart from the Covidian culture that produced it. Skip the game and read the books, or really, any other book.

Game Quality: 3/5

Moral Formation: 1/5



THE ODYSSEY

Emily Chuchta
is a math teacher at Iron
Academy and a contributor.

The Odyssey depicts the conclusion to the Trojan War and the many trials Odysseus, played by Matt Damon, and his soldiers face upon their return home. Due to breaking Zeus' Law (xenia) with the Trojan Horse, the gods' wrath is turned upon them all, such that only Odysseus survives this perilous journey. For any classical mythology nerds (or Percy Jackson and the Olympians die-hards), it's a wonderful depiction of Odysseus' journey home. While we know as Christians that the Greek gods are merely myth, I have always respected how seriously they took their faith.

Christopher Nolan, the director, artfully depicts not only the spiritual warfare of Odysseus but also the sincere heart change throughout the film. Odysseus holds himself accountable for the fall of his men in a way that is respectable, commendable, and I personally found convicting. Zeus may not be a real god, but the actions of Odysseus' men calls to mind the many times we as believers go

against God's commandments and justify it? I also thoroughly enjoyed the conclusion of the film, where Penelope holds fast to the belief that her husband will return and cast out those who have taken advantage of her household. As I sat in the theater, watching Odysseus, disguised as a beggar, string his bow and reveal himself, I reveled in Penelope's delight as an egregious wrong was set right. She was delighted in seeing her husband reclaim his home, and I couldn't help but note a parallel as I sat in the theater. There are no Greek gods to pour their petty wrath on those that displease them. Yet we serve a powerful and loving God who will one day return to claim His bride, the church. We as Christians wait in long-suffering just as Penelope did for our Savior to come for His bride. Nolan's Odyssey may be rooted in paganism, but as a story it can remind us of the character of our own true Lord and Savior.



THE BAD ADVICE COLUMN

By Daniel Bamford

How do I get rich quick?

Ephram Wilk
Sophomore, Iron Academy

Money is power within this society, but to make money, there must also be sacrifice. Most "experts" will tell you to buy low, and sell high, but I tell you, why buy at all? Remember Robert Kiyosaki, who revealed in a 2022 interview that his wealth is the result of his \$1.2 billion in debt. Kiyosaki Says, "I use debt as money and I don't save cash". Follow his example, and remember, money is a construct of capitalist bourgeoisie and promotes disorder within society.

Do not measure your success in money, but rather in the happiness you have brought to the collective. Money is power, and therefore power requires sacrifice. Capitalism is an old and antiquated idea, that needs to be put out of its misery.

Remember, you must spend money to make money, and therefore power for power. Give up your individual self, so that we can further the whole. Think of the state of the world, even in our homes. But two minutes ago, you asked me how you can take money and give to yourself. You think they truly care for you? They use the common man to further their own dark desires. We can help you and set you free from the chains of oppression. Repent, I say and turn from this incompetent system. Only with your help can we defeat the capitalist pig-dogs.