

JACOBS LIVE AT THE MOVIES  
PRESENTS A SCREENING OF

THE  
WIZARD OF OZ

ACCOMPANIED BY  
THE JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA,  
CONDUCTED BY CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS

FRI & SAT  
7 & 8  
NOVEMBER

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
AUDITORIUM

# The Herald-Times

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The Project School is seen in January 2020 at 349 S. Walnut St. RICH JANZARUK/HERALD-TIMES FILE

# Good grades

Childs, Project School, Seven Oaks, Jackson Creek among state’s best

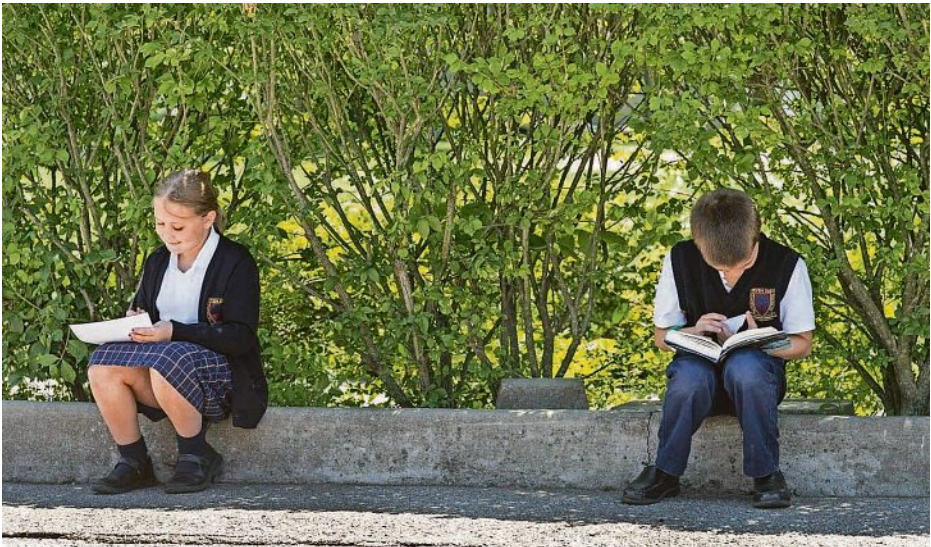
**Brian Rosenzweig**  
The Herald-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Four Bloomington-area schools made the list for the U.S. News & World Report’s Best K-8 Schools in Indiana for 2026.

The annual ranking details the best elementary and middle schools in the state based on student proficiency and scores in math and reading while incorporating test results in the context of socioeconomic demographics, according to the outlet. The ranking considers public and charter schools.

For public schools, Childs Elementary School in Bloomington was ranked the No. 9 elementary school in the state. Jackson Creek Middle School was ranked the No. 8 middle school.

For charter schools, the Project School in Bloomington ranked No. 1 in the state, while Seven Oaks in Ellettsville ranked No. 4.



Two Seven Oaks students are busy during recess on May 31, 2017. CHRIS HOWELL/HERALD-TIMES FILE

**Which Monroe County elementary schools made the list?**

Only one public school, Childs Elementary in Bloomington, made the U.S. News and World Report’s list for the top 25 elementary schools in Indiana.

Childs Elementary, located on the

southeast side of Bloomington, is one of 14 elementary schools within the Monroe County Community School Corp.

There are 446 students enrolled at Childs Elementary as of the state’s 2025 headcount.

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# Jamaica reports damage, outages

Hurricane Melissa hits Cuba with Bahamas next

**Thao Nguyen, Dinah Voyles Pulver and Jeanine Santucci**  
USA TODAY

Hurricane Melissa churned over Cuba as a Category 2 storm Oct. 29 as authorities in Jamaica began surveying the extensive damage left in its wake as the strongest tropical cyclone of the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season.

Melissa reached Jamaica on Oct. 28 as an extremely dangerous Category 5 hurricane, the highest level on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, with damaging winds, catastrophic flash flooding and landslides. The storm caused widespread infrastructure damage, including power and communication outages that left hundreds of thousands of residents in the dark.

At least seven people were killed as the storm made its approach toward Jamaica, and authorities said it’s too soon to tell how many more died after it made landfall.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said on CNN after the storm passed that the government had not received news of any confirmed deaths, but “we are expecting that there would be some loss of life.”

The winds, which topped 185 mph on the island, were “like a roaring lion,” retiree Colin Henry McDonald told Reuters as the hurricane approached. “It’s mad. Really mad.”

The destruction in Jamaica is estimated at \$22 billion, according to a preliminary analysis by AccuWeather. The estimate accounts for damage to homes and businesses, disruptions to the economy and tourism and losses due to extended power outages, travel delays and infrastructure, the outlet said.

Recovery efforts may be dangerous and lengthy, with residents and tourists stranded for an extended time, said Alex DaSilva, lead hurricane expert at AccuWeather.

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## THINGS TO DO

# Enjoy Science Fest, pottery show, artisan market

**Brian Rosenzweig**  
The Herald-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

To many out there, the moment that Halloween ends is the moment the holiday season begins. Come Saturday, Target and Hobby Lobby will be decked out in red, green and tinsel, Starbucks will soon launch their winter menu, and a certain R&B pop star who only wants one thing for Christmas will start “defrosting,” per pop culture lore.

We don’t like to take sides with our

weekend events calendar, but given we’ve already previewed Halloween events in Bloomington pretty extensively already, this guide will largely focus on post-Halloween Saturday and Sunday events. If you want to find spooky activities for Thursday and Halloween night, check out our week-of calendar at [tinyurl.com/4cy8htsv](https://tinyurl.com/4cy8htsv).

This weekend in Bloomington, you can find one-of-a-kind holiday gifts at two artisan markets, explore hands-on science demos at IU, and see acclaimed performer Mitski in an almost-like-live

concert film at the Buskirk-Chumley.

**Spend Halloween night sipping on spooky cocktails at Cardinal Spirits**

If you don’t have plans for Halloween night, you can enjoy some free treats, tasty cocktails and a nostalgic movie screening at Cardinal Spirits Friday night. The distillery will be playing the original “Beetlejuice” film at 8 p.m., serving up a spooky cocktail special, and cultivating a “monster mash” kind

of energy all night, with costumes encouraged. Plus, all guests are invited to reach into Cardinal’s jack-o-lantern, which can include treats from canned cocktails to candy bars to a couple dollars off your tab. No tricks here!

The festivities kick off at 4 p.m., with “Beetlejuice” playing at 8. Admission is free, but reservations are encouraged online at [exploretock.com/cardinal-spirits](https://exploretock.com/cardinal-spirits). Cardinal Spirits is at 922 S. Morton St.

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