



# RETURN ITINERARY

Academic Year 2020-2021



International School of Indiana





To the ISI Community,

On March 13, our school community entered a new, and often uncertain, time as the coronavirus pandemic turned so much that was unthinkable into reality. Our students, families, faculty, and staff have faced these realities with a special blend of grace and resilience that assures us of an ever-brighter future, together, as ONE ISI.

As we look ahead to the coming academic year, we remain optimistic for a return to normal but are planning a thoughtful and layered itinerary for the return to classes that is flexible and transparent and that empowers our community to successfully meet students' needs regardless of how the pandemic might continue to impact our region in the months to come.

In partnership,

ISI Leadership Team





## OUR COMMITMENTS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

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*We appreciate that the uncertainty of the moment leaves many of us with more questions than answers, but we are committed to certain principles and plans no matter what the pandemic's future impacts might be.*

### **WHAT WE UNDERSTAND**

For at least a period of the 2020-2021 academic year, if not its full duration, ISI will be operating in a form of emergency mode due to the pandemic.

Our families, faculty, staff, and on-site service providers vendors will be accepting some inherent risk by returning to our facilities for the start of school.

A general set of global best practices for re-opening school campuses amid the pandemic is already taking shape and will be consulted.

### **WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING**

1. We will maximize students' engagement with teachers and peers regardless of how learning is delivered.
2. We will use exemptions afforded to child care centers to ensure 100% of our pre-elementary students receive in-person learning for 100% of the academic year regardless of future state or local stay-at-home or business-closure orders, understanding that the presence of a cluster of coronavirus cases in a particular grade level or language track classroom may require a period of limited classroom closures depending on the scope and scale of the virus spread.
3. Maximizing engagement through commitments one and two means we will ensure that all core curricular concepts are successfully delivered to students across grade levels because such continuity of curriculum is essential to student development and academic success.
4. We will follow a transparent and consistent fiscal policy, including a pledge that published tuition rates for the 2020-2021 academic year will remain unchanged regardless of how learning is delivered and despite the forecasted increase in expenses to implement the necessary health and safety protocols for in-person learning during the course of the year.
5. We will provide a safe and healthy work environment for our faculty and staff so that they may thrive in their roles by meeting, or when possible surpassing, issued federal, state, or local health and safety guidelines.

## OUR PLANS TO DELIVER LEARNING

*Through our commitments to maximize student engagement, ensure the continuity of curriculum, and keep our pre-elementary classrooms open for in-person learning, ISI students during the 2020-2021 academic year will receive their full curriculum regardless of how and/or where learning is delivered.*

*When considering the possibilities for the delivery of classes, we are currently preparing for the three most-likely re-open scenarios, and a more definitive plan will be released in July.*

### **SCENARIO ONE: TRADITIONAL LEARNING**

What we've come to expect over the last quarter-century, this scenario anticipates all ISI facilities are allowed to be open, and all students, faculty, and staff will report to classrooms for in-person learning according to our school schedule and in alignment with social distancing guidelines throughout the school day.

We understand that some families' risk-tolerance may leave them inclined to keep their students at home during a traditional learning period. As a result, a remote learning option will be provided to all of our elementary, middle, and high school students who may elect to stay home due to health considerations.

### **SCENARIO TWO: HYBRID LEARNING**

An approach that could take many forms, we define hybrid learning as a mix of in-person classroom teaching that adheres to social distancing guidelines and at-home e-learning. This scenario is most likely if federal, state, or local guidelines limit the number of people allowed in groups or gatherings.

### **SCENARIO THREE: E-LEARNING**

Refined by our faculty and staff in the final weeks of the current academic year, e-learning is the delivery of curriculum online, utilizing live teaching in virtual classrooms. E-learning would result from a mandated closure of our facilities or from the presence of a cluster of coronavirus cases in a particular grade level or language track classroom.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Dependent on the learning scenario being implemented as well as the social distancing guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control at the given time, there exists the potential that supplemental academic opportunities, like assemblies and field trips, will be impacted, or otherwise different from the traditional, for periods of time during the 2020-2021 academic year.



# OUR PLANS FOR OPERATIONS, FACILITIES, NON-ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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*Beyond classroom learning, the pandemic will continue to impact our school community's routines and traditions, and we will prioritize health and safety as we consider changes to the ways we interact on campuses and to the programs that bring us together outside of the school day.*

## **GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Steps being implemented and/or considered to protect the health and safety of our community on our campuses include:

- the certification of the school nurse as a contract tracer for the coronavirus;
- new hand sanitizer dispensers in all classrooms and in high-traffic common areas;
- acquisition of appropriate and adequate PPE for faculty and staff;
- revised janitorial and maintenance procedures;
- revised visitor policies to mitigate potential illness spread;
- potential changes to our transportation services to accommodate social distancing rules;
- potential changes to our cafeteria service to accommodate food health and safety protocols.

Additional details on new operations and facilities policies or changes to existing policies will be released in July after Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb's administration provides updates to its 5-stage plan to have the state "back on track" by July 4.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

*Child care:* our current plan is to provide child care services during the hours of 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and after school until 6:00 p.m. on each day that a student reports to his or her classroom for a full day of in-person learning. Only when a student participates in e-learning at home would child care services not be available.

*After-school enrichment:* an option currently being considered is to suspend in-person after-school enrichment programs for at least the first semester of the academic year to minimize visitors to our campuses.

*Athletics:* our current plan is to follow directives issued by the Indiana High School Athletics Association, which has already stated its plan to move forward with fall 2020 sports seasons, but only in cases where we are confident that we can protect the health and safety of our athletes.

*Homestay and F1 students:* our current plan is to work with our Homestay Program host families to extend stays for those F1 students wishing to remain in Indianapolis during the summer break due to concerns about travel restrictions during the pandemic. We will also make every effort to ensure safe and efficient return travel for those students who will be returning to the United States from their international homes for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year.



## International School of Indiana

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"To all who love and celebrate our school community, thank you for your continued grace, understanding, and flexibility as we - together as ONE ISI - look toward better and brighter days to come when we return to campus."

Elizabeth Head  
ISI Head of School

*The distinct academics at the International School of Indiana prepare young people to be responsible citizens and effective leaders in a rapidly globalizing and interdependent world.*  
*Our students are ready for the world stage.*