

## ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020





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# Greetings

Dear Family and Friends of ICS,

What a year we have been through together! No one could have imagined how much our world would change during this Covid-19 season. Despite many difficulties, we are thankful for a God who walks with us always, allowing and equipping us to fulfill our mission of educating minds and transforming lives for His glory. As one of our elementary teachers shared, "I love teaching at ICS because God allows me to play a small role in creating future world changers and influencers." God is our guide and providing an outstanding education to your children is our passion. As God invests in us, we invest in our students, growing them into global citizens with unique skills who are anchored on a biblical worldview and dedicated to impacting their communities.

Community is at the heart of who we are. In the words of an African proverb, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This sentiment has never been more real than during the struggles we have shared during this past year. I am so thankful for a community that joined together to move the school forward in the face of adversity. Thank you for partnering with us in the education of your child. God has given us countless opportunities to learn and grow from the Covid-19 situation and I cannot wait to see what He will do for ICS in the future.

This annual report tells the story of ICS, painting a picture of our success over the 2019-20 school year. It offers an overview of our demographics, outcomes, and results. While we are certainly proud of our accomplishments, I would challenge you to look beyond the statistics to see the quality of our students and school during the last year. We know that God is doing a good work in us and we are excited about the student leaders that ICS is producing.

Please join us in celebrating the work being done in and out of the classroom each day. We can only go far if we go together.

Blessings on each of you.

Dr. J.P. Rader ICS Director

# When the second second

## Mission

Educating minds and transforming lives to impact the world for the glory of God

## **Core Values**

Biblical Worldview Caring Community Academic Excellence Personal Excellence

## Vision

Every Student, Every Family, Every Day for Christ

Transformation at **International Community School (Singapore)** occurs holistically. We pursue knowledge and inspire learning because we believe that God has a plan for each of our students and has created them with unique gifts and abilities. As we intentionally invest in each child, we expect our students to become difference makers within their spheres of influence—at home, at school, locally in their neighborhoods, and globally. While our primary purpose as a school is to serve students, we seek to impact all in our community during their time at ICS through a tangible difference in culture and perspective.

# Educating Minds.

Transforming Lives.

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#### ICS FOUNDATIONS

## Leadership

"As a board member, I was very encouraged by how well ICS navigated the challenges of moving to remote learning for the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The teachers and administrators looked for ways to turn challenges into opportunities and made sure serving our students remained the focus at all times."



#### Chairperson: Julie Wiggins

Job Title: Director of Operations, Young Life Asia Pacific Term: May 6, 2016 to Aug 24, 2020



"ICS is emerging as an innovative leader in education, raising the bar for international schools not only in academics but in the critically important area of character formation. It is a privilege to serve on the ICS Board of Directors."

Vice-Chair: Dave Hane Job Title: Personnel Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Strategic Partners Term: May 6, 2016 to May 5, 2021



**Director: Jacob Li** 

Job Title: Resident Faculty, East Asia School of Theology Term: January 16, 2018 to January 15, 2021



Director: Laura Tan

Job Title: Program Manager, Lonza Biologics Tuas Term: July 17, 2017 to July 16, 2022



**Director: Sam Kim** 

Job Title: Pastor Term: October 15, 2018 to October 14, 2021



**Director: Su Wei Yong** 

Job Title: Homemaker Term: October 15, 2018 to October 14, 2021



**Director: KD Baruah** 

Job Title: EVP (APAC), DT One Term: November 13, 2018 to November 12, 2021



**Director: Younbo Jung** 

Job Title: Associate Chair - Academic and Associate Professor, Nanyang Technological University Term: November 13, 2018 to May 15, 2020



**Director: Eric Lim** 

Job Title: Founder & CEO, Fixturegram Pte Ltd Term: January 13, 2020 - Aug 24, 2020



ICS has flourished during the 2019-20 school year. Our audited financial results were within the budgetary plan and we remain in a stable financial position despite the unexpected upheaval of a global pandemic. Teacher salary and benefits remain the largest components of expenses because ICS believes in equipping our educators for success. While there will continue to be a need for annual moderate tuition increases, we are committed to operating at maximum efficiency to keep these increases as small as possible.

We are called to be good financial stewards. At ICS this calling is a two-fold responsibility. We maintain financial reserves equal to approximately half of one year's operating expenses. These reserves provide a buffer in case of unexpected circumstances and allow the school to make strategic investments. We are also blessed to offer tuition assistance to the families of full-time missionaries, pastors, and vocational Christian workers.





At International Community School (Singapore) we see challenges as opportunities. Difficult times lead to unanticipated blessings and allow us to grow as a school and a community. This is especially true in the face of the global pandemic that has drastically altered our expectations for 2020. The full impact of COVID-19 on ICS is still being evaluated, but we remain confident in our purpose and the strengths of our students and faculty.

We recognize that moving to 100% online learning in April 2020, and the nature of social distancing regulations in Singapore, will have profound impacts on students' academic, psychological, emotional, and social well-being now and well into the future. To address these 3 concerns and best equip our students for success during this time, we:



1. Proactively developed and published an online learning hub that lives on the website and was immediately available to parents when we moved to 100% online learning. We anticipated a need for online learning support and resources, and were able to keep parents informed and involved during the two-month-long Singapore Circuit Breaker period.



2. Restructured the annual overseas service learning opportunity, Week Without Walls. It is important that our students understand and appreciate the importance of service, so we figured out a way for our middle and high school students to meet the needs of the school and our campus.



3. Adapted teacher instruction to fit the online learning environment. We asked our faculty to be intentional about maintaining strong relationships with students and families so that every member of our community felt supported and valued during this difficult time.

As we enter the second semester of the 2020-21 academic year, ICS has resumed in-person, on-campus learning. While significant social distancing regulations can be limiting, we are committed to educating each student on a personalized, holistic level in the safest way possible. Thank you for trusting us with your children and supporting the school as we adjust together to this new normal.

#### TRANSFORM

## **Student Demographics**

With over 29 nations represented in our student body, ICS is truly international. Our student-centered community embraces cultural and ethnic diversity and emphasises the importance of love and respect for all people. Our classrooms reflect a low student-teacher ratio and our qualified and dedicated faculty cultivate a safe and nurturing student learning environment. The families of our students come from a variety of career communities, including business, ministry, military, and diplomatic.





## **Faculty Demographics**

What differentiates International Community School (Singapore) from the rest? The quality and care of our teachers. Our academic staff of 52 teachers comprises a majority of US passport holders with an average of 9.8 years of teaching experience and 48% with a master's degree and above. Not only do we hire highly qualified and expertly trained teachers, but we also ensure that each individual is passionate about their job and dedicated to bringing students to the next level in their learning and personal growth. That's why the average length of stay for an educator at ICS is 5 years.



#### EDUCATE

## **Educational Philosophy**

At International Community School (Singapore), we believe that each student is unique and has an individual journey toward success. No student is defined solely by numbers or scores. ICS is transitioning to a fully standards-based learning model because we are passionate about fostering a personalized learning environment for every student. Whether a student is with us for one semester or until graduation, we commit to equipping all students who leave ICS with the necessary learning skills and content knowledge to be successful.



# **Academic Highlights**

Every year, students at ICS partake in the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), a research-based non-profit organization that has created assessment solutions for more than 40 years for schools across the globe. Elementary and middle school students take the exam in November and April and high school students take the exam in April. Due to the closure of in-person school in the spring, our students were unable to take the April exams. The following information reflects the initial formative assessment for elementary and middle school students taken in November 2019.

The MAP Growth exam tests the students in mathematics, reading, and language usage and is delivered electronically and in an adaptive manner. Students receive a RIT (Rasch Unit) score that reflects the student's academic knowledge, skills, and abilities. The results of this initial formative assessment allow our teachers to identify what students know and don't know. Students at ICS regularly score above NWEA norms across all three subject areas.

ICS uses this MAP test data in three ways:

- To provide teachers with information about each student's instructional needs and identify students who may need additional support
- To monitor growth over time, both during the school year and over consecutive school years
- To provide an external benchmark of student performance against schools in Singapore, Asia, and the United States





Κ

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

0



ICS NWEA

8th

7th

# **High School Profile Highlights**

Students have an opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses either on campus or online through Northstar Academy. In 2020, 46 high school students took 80 AP exams. Students who scored a 3, 4, or 5 may be eligible for university credit.



# Student acceptances from 2015 to 2020 to top universities according to the U.S. News & World Report 2021 rankings

University Ranking		
Name of University	Country G	ilobal Ranking
University of California, Berkeley (UCB)	USA	4
University of Washington	USA	8
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	USA	13
University of Toronto	Canada	17
UCL (University College London)	UK	19
University of California, San Diego	USA	21
University of Melbourne	Australia	25
University of Sydney	Australia	27
New York University	USA	29
National University of Singapore	Singapore	32
King's College London	UK	34
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Singapore	38
University of Amsterdam	Amsterdam	40
Monash University	Australia	48
University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney)	Australia	51
University of California, Santa Barbara	USA	56
Boston University	USA	57
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	USA	60
Emory University	USA	71
Pennsylvania State University - University Park	USA	75

Ranked according to the U.S. News & World Report 2021 rankings

IMPACT

## **Parent Teacher Fellowship**

The Parent Teacher Fellowship is an integral part of community life at International Community School (Singapore). A parent-driven volunteer group, the PTF is the main vehicle for many of our campus life events and activities and a central way for parents and guardians to actively support the ICS mission. From hosting new family welcome events, weekly Bible studies, and prayer meetings, to organizing appreciation events and gifts for staff at ICS and major fundraising events to purchase large-ticket items at the school, the PTF members are our greatest champions!

#### **Ongoing Activities:**

- Provide food for staff during Fall parent-teacher conferences
- Organize birthday, wedding, and baby gifts for staff members
- Popcorn Fridays for staff members
- Monthly Bake Sales (raise approximately \$400-\$500 per bake sale)

## Fall 2019 Highlights:

- Fall Carnival Fundraised over \$13,000 with proceeds directly benefiting ICS
- Christmas Fair Raised \$17,000 in revenues with \$4,000 sent to two charities and over \$9,500 benefitting ICS

#### Spring 2020 Highlights:

- Used \$6,000 of fall fundraising funds to purchase a Lionsforge Laser Cutter for the Middle School Design Tech class
- Provided a Senior Scholarship of \$1,500
- In lieu of Teacher Appreciation Week (due to school closure), provided gift cards to staff
- In lieu of a pizza party for seniors (due to school closure), provided gift cards to seniors





## Impact Through the Years

At International Community School (Singapore), service learning isn't just a token phrase. Serving others is a part of our DNA. From the youngest elementary students who are taught to recognize the contributions of others and express appreciation through small acts of service, to high school students who are tasked with larger projects and confront real world realities head-on, service learning is impact-in-action.

This year, at the elementary level, students were encouraged to develop a "servant's heart". From service-oriented field trips, such as a trip to Hobby Club for the kindergarten classes, to collecting trash on Singapore's beaches, our students were reminded to constantly see how they can make an impact on the world around them. Middle school students were paired with elementary students, "buddies", and organized activities by station for Christmas. They also met weekly in small groups for guided discussions on what it means to serve and their serving planning for the spring.



## Impact at Home: "Difference Makers"

The high school service learning program culminates in the Week Without Walls trip, described as "the exclamation point" by a WWW advisor, Ms. Rebecca Lafferty. In the Week Without Walls program, students spend nearly the entire academic year preparing for the week-long trip to our overseas ministry partners that occurs in the spring. This year, our advisors and students had to act fast due to the sudden restrictions on travel. In a few short weeks, the high school students planned a week-long service project that brought impact at home. The theme for this year was "Difference Makers" and the program had several goals:

- Build partnerships to address community needs
- Create opportunities for meaningful service related to gifts, talents, and interests
- Promote cultural sensitivity
- Encourage reflection and intrapersonal skills
- Build a youth voice seeing the needs in the community and planning projects to meet those needs in service

Students were broken up into teams that improved campus works, including building stadium seating on the soccer field, painting classrooms, creating large-scale murals, and improving the elementary school playground. The high school students also led small groups and activities for the elementary students during Spiritual Emphasis Week, a week-long program that focuses on spiritual formation for our students.





As a medium-sized, not-for-profit international school, we have maximized our resources in every area of our operations and continue to maintain a strong value proposition for expat families in the country. Whether families seek an affordable school with a valuable American curriculum, a program that is firmly rooted in Biblical teaching, or an intimate community environment that carefully nurtures each child, the International Community School (Singapore) remains the most optimal solution for many.

After more than 28 years of operation, ICS is ready for the next stage of growth. We invite you to partner with us. Whether your ties to the school are as a former student, a staff member, or an investor for a bright future, help us strengthen our place in Singapore and prepare ourselves for the next generation of students.

#### How Do I Get Involved?

Visit our website on Giving.sg or contact us at advancement@ics.edu.sg for more information on how you can contribute.



#### uKNIGHTed A DAY IN THE LIFE

## A Day In The Life Of A Parent



Now my day truly gets started. After the gym I tidy up around the house. I remember to check

get pretty busy with three kids! A couple of nights a week we have OT and ST for H after school, so that changes up our routines and dinner schedule. I think ahead to what we should eat for dinner and take a leisurely stroll down to the local market for groceries. When I have time, I do online education classes to maintain my teaching certification or work on a personal hobby.



Sometimes I meet up with a friend for coffee and a chat. All the Covid-19 restrictions have made this difficult, so it's nice to enjoy time with my community whenever possible.

3:15pm

The kids get off the bus and we're back in action! After a quick change of clothes, we do snack time and spend 30 minutes on homework. Most afternoons we make time to play in the pool, enjoy time with each other, or get in some screen time for the kids before dinner. Before the pandemic, we liked to spend some afternoons at the ICS library, reading books, working on a puzzle, and spending time with the kids' friends on campus. Hopefully we'll be able to do that again soon!



During family dinner we go around the table and share about our day. Family time is so important! After dinner, my husband and I do one-on-one reading time with each of our two daughters and story time with our younger son. Together we have fun with legos, coloring, or free play before bath and bedtime.



We say a quick prayer with each of our kids and then it's lights out for those three. My husband and I catch up on all the day's activities, go over tomorrow's schedule, and do one last quick clean sweep of the house. Once the chores are done, we take some time to relax together, watching a movie or playing a game before bed. It's a busy life, but I love it. It's so cool to be part of a school community that's like a family, and I can't wait to do it all again tomorrow!



# A Day In The Life Of A Student



After a good night's sleep, I wake up and realize that it's Friday! It's going to be a long day, but the upcoming weekend makes everything worth it. I roll out of bed and take a freezing cold shower. Yesterday I had CrossFit after school with Mr. Harding, the middle and high school principal, and the shower not only helps me wake up, but also helps my muscles recover.



I take my time eating my breakfast of a ham and veggie omelet, two slices of toast, and a lot of water. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so I make sure to savor every bite. When I'm done, I grab my stuff, put in my headphones, turn on some country music, and bike to school.



I get to school, scan my student ID, and check my temperature before washing my hands. I stop by my dad's office to say hello and grab a cup of coffee. He's the ICS athletic director, and it's nice to see him around campus during the day.



Today my first class is Bible. We're studying Jesus' journey to the cross, so I start my day by reflecting on Jesus' many miracles and journaling about how I see God working in my own life. I have a 10-minute break before my next class, so I run to the canteen with my friends to grab a quick snack.



It's a good thing I grabbed something to eat because now is when I start my long stretch of classes before lunch. In English we have a grammar lesson and learn about Shakespeare. In Geometry we learn...well, geometry.



Lunch! I made it! I'm hungry and definitely in need of a brain break. It's nice to be able to remove my mask for a while too. Today I enjoy grilled chicken, rice, and green beans as I sit with my assigned group in the canteen. When lunch is over, I head to Chemistry.



The school day ends with 30 minutes of service learning in our Week Without Walls (WWW) meeting. In WWW we learn how to serve along with middle school students. This year's theme is "Side-by-Side (But 6 Feet Apart!)" and, though we don't get to go abroad this year, I'm looking forward to serving side-by-side with my fellow ICS students. Service is what life's all about!



When the bell rings at the end of the day, everyone's excited. My weekend hasn't started quite yet though, since I still have some work to do. I head to the sports study hall and eat a quick snack on my way. After an hour of studying, I've finished most of my homework, so I know it's going to be a great weekend.



I make my way to the gym for basketball practice, making sure to change my shoes and put on my knee pads. School athletics looks different right now due to Covid-19 and we're only able to train in small groups of five or less. It's a little frustrating that competition is so limited, but I'm excited just to be able to take off my mask and play basketball with my friends after going without sports for so long during Circuit Breaker.



As soon as practice is finished, I quickly ride my bike home for dinner. We're having beef enchiladas and salad tonight—one of my favorite meals! It's almost tortuous because the food is delicious, but I have Muay Thai at 7:00pm and can't eat too much. Though dinner is quick, it's important to me and my family that we eat together every night, even if we have other things going on. After we eat, my dad drives me and my little brother to training. It's a great time to let loose and enjoy some family bonding time since we all train together. I love the challenge and discipline that comes with studying martial arts.



It's already dark by the time we get home. I take another cold shower and eat a second delicious dinner. We do family devotion, then I call my friends and finish any homework I have left so that the rest of my weekend is free. It's nice to be able to chill, reflect on the week, tell jokes, help each other with homework, and make plans for the weekend.

11:00pm

I'm getting tired. It's been a long day and I'm looking forward to enjoying the weekend before heading back to school again on Monday. I love doing sports and seeing my friends at school every day, but it's nice to have a break!



## A Day In The Life Of A Teacher



My alarm goes off and my day begins. Slowly my Google Home turns on the lights and plays some music to help me wake up. I make my coffee, spend a few minutes chatting with my husband, then leave to catch the bus. While I ride, I listen to some music and do my morning devotion.



At school I watch the light slowly come through the windows as the sun rises and I answer emails and check the day's lesson plans. I drink my coffee and make sure that everything is ready for some great learning fun! Today I also have morning duty. I get to greet students and make sure everyone is safe as they come onto campus.



Inquiry and Digital Design classes begin. We start with an activity that focuses on collaboration and discussion. In their small groups, the students get to decide what items to take with them to a desert island or decode a message in binary. During the lesson we create and design using digital tools to develop 21st century skills. Sometimes we even break out the robots! Students also browse the library for great reads and chat with me and Ms. Larson, the ICS librarian, to get recommendations.



It's lunch time! I grab my food, take my second temperature, and get comfy in one of the library armchairs to eat. I like to spend this time reflecting on the morning lessons, collaborating with Ms. Larson on lesson ideas, and sanitizing the materials the students used earlier.



My afternoon is spent with lower elementary as I teach first grade and then kindergarten students. Right now we're focused on building basic technology, programming, and engineering skills. With first grade we practice programming using our screenless robot Cubetto. In kindergarten we read a cute book called Iggy Peck, Architect and work in cohort groups to build a cardboard car. After class, Ms. Larson and I make sure all the library books are shelved in the right place and all our materials are cleaned up from the younger students.



I make my way downstairs for bus duty and wish students a good day as they head home. I pick up the middle school girls and we go to the gym, ready to start basketball practice. The girls are excited to play and I love coaching them!



When it's time to go home, I go out the back gate to catch the bus. I can't wait to read the new book I borrowed from the national library! As soon as I get home, I start making dinner. Right now my favorite meal is Mexican tortilla soup. It's easy and delicious. I listen to music while I cook and my husband and I chat about our day while he does the dishes.



After dinner it's time to relax. I have a lot of things I like to do, but tonight I work on designing a lightbox to 3D print and put on display. I also make sure to do some homework for my master's degree. I'm studying curriculum and instructional strategies with a focus on technology integration because I want to be equipped to do my best as the ICS Elementary Technology Program Coordinator.



I get some good studying done and close my computer, satisfied with what I've learned. Getting ready for bed is quick, and I curl up, ready for another awesome day at ICS!



Getting ready for bed is quick and I curl up, ready for the next day of awesome learning!







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