



# Principal Update

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Hello ICS Families!

Please enjoy reading about many of our wonderful ICS students. This is an Update full of celebrations! Please feel free to send information to me for future newsletters – the more, the better!

Enjoy the weekend!

Margaret

## **National Merit**

### **ICS Finalists in the 2022 Competition for National Merit Scholarships:**

Kaylee L. Allen

Hoda Ayad

Sophia I. Dettweiler

Jasmine T. Herri

Julia G. Lee

Anna Nguyen

Benjamin T. Yu

In each annual National Merit Scholarship Program, about 50,000 academically talented high school students are honored, but only some 16,000 of them are named Semifinalists. Students who qualify as Semifinalists based on their junior year performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) are the only program participants who have an opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for National Merit Scholarships. Approximately 15,000 of the 16,000

Semifinalists reach the Finalist level. About 7,600 of the outstanding Finalists will be chosen as Merit Scholarship® winners in the 2022 competition. Our seniors have accomplished a great deal in a challenging learning environment due to the global pandemic. We congratulate them and applaud their hard work!

### **Authors Society**

Students are working hard to review creative submissions of art, writing, and music that they received from a wide range of students from all grade levels. In February I received this email from Emily Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE):

It is my pleasure to inform you that your school's literary magazine, Pyra, has been selected to receive the rank of Excellent in the 2021 NCTE Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) program. From all of us at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), congratulations to you and your students on this exceptional publication.

We are so proud of their accomplishment, and we look forward to sharing the 2022 Pyra with our ICS community in June.

### **Music Department**

It has been an exciting few months for the ICS Music Department! In February, we had one student, Andrew Lin, win a coveted spot in the Washington State All State Orchestra. We also had two students, Zachary Damm and Jeffrey Zhang, participate in the WMEA Northlake Region Solo & Ensemble Competition and they gave impressive performances! In March, we had three of our performing ensembles participate in their respective Northlake Region and LWSD music festivals for adjudication. Our ensembles received Excellent and Superior ratings from their adjudicators. At the end of the month, we will be presenting our Spring Music Concert starting at 6:00 PM on March 30th. Bravissimo to our amazing student musicians on their hard work and accomplishments this month!

## **National History Day**

From September through February, our 8th and 9th grade students completed the National History Day research project focused on Debate & Diplomacy anywhere in the world, anytime in history. This project created opportunities for students to take a deep dive into their fields of interest and, for some, to work on collaborative skills. Their ideas ranged from social and cultural debates to international diplomatic relations. The following students are advancing to the state competition!

### 8th graders:

Margot Kleinpeter - Haiti: A Diplomatic Island

Sizhe Chen - The Treaty of Versailles: A Failed Diplomacy

Aayona Pattanaik - The Presidency and the American Medical Association:  
Debates on Universal Healthcare

Roberto Buitrago - The Central American Plan for Peace (Esquipulas Treaty II  
or Arias Peace Plan)

Shreya Singal - Diplomacy in the Congress of Vienna

Shachar Shapira - Diplomacy in the Congress of Vienna

### 9th graders:

Jasmine Zhen - The Real Ambassadors: Jazz Diplomacy during the Cold War

Tyler Arayasantiparb - "For the Good of Humanity": Propaganda in Bikini Atoll

Abbas Zaidi - The Treaty of Versailles

Alex Wen - The Treaty of Versailles

Sofia Heiskanen - The Columbine shooting and the Effects of Societal Display

Caroline Popescu - The Columbine shooting and the Effects of Societal

Display

Seoyeoun Jeon - The Demonstrations that Reunified Germany

Dayna Verlinsky - The Demonstrations that Reunified Germany

Vanessa Wang - The Demonstrations that Reunified Germany

Marlisa La - The Demonstrations that Reunified Germany

Shivany Parvathy Sumesh - Treaty of Versailles

Karen Orita - Treaty of Versailles

## **6th Grade**

6th graders spent the entirety of February in International Studies completing a major research project focusing on waves of migration regarding various countries. Maybe not the hugest or most significant celebration, but I'm incredibly proud of their hard work and willingness to tackle major projects this semester, as well as the quality of the work they've completed.

## **ICS Robotics Champions**

9319G - Gear Grinders, robotics team, which consists of three ICS 8th grade students Rithik Mohan, Amey Bharambe, and Arav Agrawal. The team competed in the state championship held on 02/26/22 at Timberline Middle School. The team won the 'Amaze' award and got qualified for the Robotics Worlds Championship.

This rigorous competition involved robot building, programming, driving, and maneuvering multiple prototypes by the team to achieve the VEX IQ Pitching-In challenge. At the competition, the students competed in robot driving skills, a team interview with the judges, and an examination of the team's engineering notebook, which explains their design progress throughout the season. So far, in the current season, Gear Grinders team won 7 awards at various local and state tournaments.

**STAMP (Student Taught Academic Mentoring Program)** is up and running.

This program creates opportunities unique to the ICS community: connecting high school and middle school students during the school day for academic and social support. There are over 70 high school volunteers connecting with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders during Homeroom time and saying hi in the halls. Now that school feels more "normal", we are excited to grow STAMP to develop leadership skills for the high schoolers while they build positive relationships with middle school students.

## **Art Students**

Student artwork is on view at ICS! Linoleum Block Prints created by our 9th grade students are on view in the conference room. 6th grade students'

Positive/Negative Space samples made with drawing pencil and permanent markers are on view in the Student Services office. 6th grade students' Positive/Negative Space finals made using colored pencil are on display in the hall outside room 154. We hope that you can enjoy viewing these works when you are in the building.

There is more to look forward to seeing! Students are hard at work in art classes creating works to demonstrate their knowledge and skill development. For example: the freshmen class is completing self-portraits using a grid in color media, and Grade 6 students are completing acrylic Color Study paintings demonstrating the use of eight different color schemes. It is fulfilling to witness these examples of student growth!