

2020-21 IMPACT REPORT

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RISE(ing) in a Global Pandemic: ISDenver Launches Largest Community-led Capital Campaign in the School's History

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STUDENTS IN OUR CHINESE PROGRAM

> **333** STUDENTS IN OUR SPANISH PROGRAM



A Message from our Head of School 2020-21 school year, simply wow! I certainly hope that in what will be a long history for ISDenver, that this is remembered as the most unique year ever.

I am so proud that the school opened on time and remained open all year to students. There were certainly some bumps along the way, but **our ability to stay focused and work together as a community made it possible for us to complete our stated goal, "to have as many students on campus for as many days as possible."**



In any year, the faculty is the school's most important asset and we educate our children thanks to them. During this year, however, our faculty and staff were truly heroic and did noble and incredibly important work. Even during this risky time they showed up day in and day out, no small task, to put our students first. It is because of them that students had a safe and loving place to go every day in a place and time that was anything but. We will forever be grateful for their selfless work on behalf of our students.

Students are our north star.

BOB CARIGNAN Head of School



Our new building, completed in fall 2021.



Our parents were also crucial in helping us to fulfill our mission. Our new Medical Advisory Committee's advice, led by Wendy Bamberg, was a critical piece for us to keep people safe.

In the midst of it all, we broke ground on a game-changing academic building, The Mary Louise Evans building, that was ultimately completed in the fall of 2021. **The** wonderful, teacher-designed, student-centered space was made possible by the generosity of our RISE Campaign donors led by our Campaign Co-Chairs Chad and Misty Meade. Generations of ISDenver students will celebrate your commitment to the school.

The eyes show the smile and the smiles make it all worthwhile.

The school also moved forward strategically with our Association of Colorado Independent Schools accreditation and International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme authorization applications. Once again a nod to how hard our staff worked. **These** will have positive impacts long into the school's future.

We all should be very proud that even with the global pandemic the school moved forward in meaningful and long term ways. I thank all of our families, faculty, staff, and contributors for your commitment to our students! **Simply put, none of our excellence can truly shine without your loyal support.**

Go Dragons! *

A Message from our Board Chair

To our incredible community, let's pause for a moment just to reflect. Do you see it now in hindsight?

The effort, every single ounce of energy it took to do something other schools deemed impossible, to stay open during a pandemic? **And not only to stay open—but to thrive?**

I need to start by giving all credit where credit is due: to our teachers.

THANK YOU to our teachers—our superheroes—for giving it your all in likely the hardest year of teaching in your careers.

Here is a sampling of what teachers did for us, day in and day out:

• Welcomed kids from homes that were stressed—mine included—and we know that comes with difficult kids and parents.

- Wore a mask all day and asked their learners to do the same.
- Stayed committed to professional development as we continued the candidacy process for the Primary Years Programme.
- Whether on or off livestream, held space for students wherever they were learning; all the while being great at both in-person and online teaching at the same time.
- Answered our emails, our questions, our concerns, and handled them with grace and professionalism.
- Comforted our kids, gave them love and hugs, and helped make this world safe for their bodies and minds.



We practice social distancing

We wash

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of DENVER

Sparky helped us all remember to wear masks and wash hands. A big thank you to you, too. To this incredible community. We said it again and again and it is as true today as it was in the height of it all, **"We are all in this together."** We are a community bound by a shared value of creating a more curious and compassionate world, one student at a time.

Last year was hard. It was hard to keep up with the changing flows of the school, changing government requirements, and school policy. **Thank you for understanding how hard your ISDenver team worked** to make this the best school for kids in Colorado and to keep our kids in person.



KURT PLETCHER Board Chair

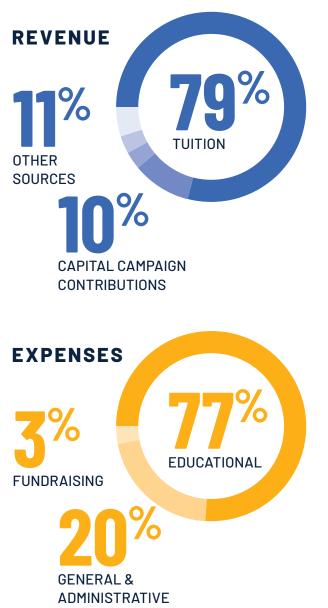
And on top of all of that, a record number of you also invested in the ISDenver experience with record number of families participating in Community Giving. With each donation, you make sure that our school is able to "say yes" to the many things that we parents simply know and love as part of our kids' days at ISDenver, from our facilities, to helping all families experience our special variety of education regardless of resources, to simply helping to pay for a ton of plexiglass, sanitizer stations, and traffic officers. We strive to keep our tuition among the lowest within our peer group and we are only able to do that through the generosity of those able and willing to give to make things happen at ISDenver. *

You're helping make the world a more compassionate and curious place, one student at a time.



BOARD MEMBERS Kurt Pletcher CHAIR Ari Blum VICE CHAIR Megan Carrington TREASURER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR Wendy Ware SECRETARY Kenton Epard MEMBER, BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIR Beth Capra MEMBER Misty Meade **MEMBER** Lainie Minnick MEMBER Paul Olk MEMBER, ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR Scott Ranby MEMBER Paige Reberry MEMBER Bob Carignan HEAD OF SCHOOL, EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Our Financial Health



REVENUE CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Tuition, net of Discounts and Financial Assistance	\$12,150,151
Capital Campaign Contributions	\$1,560,630
Daycare, After School Programs, and Summer Programs*	\$385,915
Community Giving Contributions	\$419,600
Other Revenue**	\$775,204
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,291,500

* Due to the pandemic, only Summer Programs were run in 2020-21.

** Includes \$565K in COVID-related grants.

EXPENSE CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Educational	\$11,101,029
General & Administrative	\$3,004,894
Fundraising	\$407,017
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,512,940

Growth Mindset in the Era of COVID-19

In a year so unprecedented the word "novel" was used to describe it, in a time no manual or contingency planning could have solved, we turned to what guides us. Our north star. Our students.

By allowing what is best for our students to inform our decision making, the same growth mindset that the International Baccalaureate framework encourages in the classroom allowed us to evolve in some incredible ways. Here are a few examples:

Beloved events, like Chinese New Year and the International Day of Peace continued, even though they looked a little different!



We formed RISE, a capital campaign for a new academic building.

read more on page 19

A Medical Advisory Committee made up of an impressive group of public health experts, medical doctors, and thought leaders assembled to consult on best practice protocols and procedures to keep our community safe.

You made it a record year for gifts received on Giving Tuesday. A Mentor Club was established as an extra layer of support for livestream learners. We began work to align our school brand the look and feel and voice—to our mission, vision, values, and community principles.

> We brought a carline THROUGH campus. And it worked! (Eventually it worked! Thank you for your patience as we saw things in a new way!)

In the spirit of the moment, our Global Gala became an in-real-time virtual toast and party with "Gala-to-Go" bubbles and custom cookies! As a community, we rallied to raise the funds to add an Education Technology Specialist to the team.

read more on page 10

We added a Livestream Learning Coordinator dedicated to helping students who opted for virtual learning.

We continued moving forward with our Primary Years Programme Candidacy.

We hosted an epic, sociallydistanced 8th grade graduation. One for the record books!

GALA TO GO

Community Building in a Box

While Global Gala 2021: Heroes celebrated the heroic work of our faculty and staff amidst a pandemic, our dedicated Gala Committee put in a *heroic effort to bring the spirit of our* signature Global Galas to your home.



In record numbers our parent community "attended" our live, virtual event from home with their Gala-to-Go packages, including a delicious bottle of sparkling wine, superhero masks, and school-branded cookies! *

"A HERO IS AN ORDINARY INDIVIDUAL WHO FINDS THE STRENGTH TO PERSEVERE AND ENDURE IN SPITE OF OVERWHELMING OBSTACLES."

-CHRISTOPHER REEVE

OULEVARD

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CityHomes at

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BOULEVARD ONE



ENROLLMENT

Sight Unseen

We welcomed a record 32 mid-year students during the 2020-21 school year.

The number is made even more impressive when you consider these families made the leap to join ISDenver without stepping on campus or into a single classroom.

With COVID-19 restrictions and the school's commitment to keeping our students and faculty safe, the Admissions Team got creative with tours. You could see them on any given day donned in masks and walking families along the green fence line on a "perimeter tour." They also got quite familiar with Zoom!

See the next page for the story of one family who joined us mid-year, sight unseen.

32 STUDENTS JOINED MID-YEAR

A family gets a perimeter tour from staff.

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ENROLLMENT

Maya's Story

Before starting ISDenver, Maya was bored at school and would come home and say she wasn't learning anything.

She had great teachers and was making friends, but there wasn't an academic challenge for her. Since she was a good student and not requiring attention, it was easy for her to just be one of the kids in the class and be sort of invisible. which was heartbreaking for me as a parent who sees her as this shining star. To think she could just fade into the background was hard for me to see.

One of the things I love about ISDenver is that students' opinions and ideas are not only validated but encouraged.

based learning means to me that the students are actively engaged in their learning, asking questions, testing ideas out, vs traditional passive learning where they are just supposed to listen and memorize what they are being taught.

The International Baccalaureate program encourages students to think on their own and has helped Maya to approach problems confidently. She is also "seen." Teachers and staff really know who she is. When she switched to ISDenver in the middle of the school year, the administration, staff, and teachers really went out of their way to make her feel welcome.

Inquiry-

They also continued to follow up with her and with us to make sure she was adjusting well. It only took one day for her to feel at home at ISDenver. It was such a joy for me to pick her up from school and have her be excited and chattering all the way home about the kids and teachers she met, her classes, what she learned, and how much fun she had.

Alberto's Welcome Class for Spanish was so warm, inviting, and fun! It really helped make her mid-year transition smooth. One of the potential obstacles for kids starting later at ISDenver is not having the foundation of a second language, so the Welcome Class really helped her get over her fears and have fun learning. 🕇

DANA MILLER KOVALAK, MAYA'S MOM

Thank You to our Donors!

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COMMUNITY GIVING ORGANIZATIONS

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At our core, ISDenver is **a community** that embraces a growth mindset.

While the heart and the essence of the language school that started more than 40 years still quides us today, our enrollment and campus have grown, and improved, greatly.

Thanks to generous Community *Giving donors, the ISDenver Experience for all of our students* now includes improved classroom technology, top-notch commercial kitchen and lunch service, STEAM facilities, performing arts lighting/ sound equipment, and much more.

We encourage you to take a moment to appreciate all that donors to the ISDenver Community Giving program have contributed to the ISDenver Experience for every student who walks through our doors.

KEEGAN O'NEIL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY GIVING

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* Faculty and Staff Contributors to Scholarship by Staff

SPOTLIGHT

Our Outstanding Faculty Philanthropist

In the 2020 – 21 school year, we honored our third annual Outstanding Faculty Philanthropist award winner, Dusty Slaten!

The Outstanding Faculty Philanthropist award is presented to the faculty or staff donor at the International School of Denver who most strongly embodies the generous spirit of Community Giving.

The 2020 – 21 school year presented many unique challenges and, as school nurse during a global pandemic, no one was more critical to ensuring that ISDenver stayed open and in-person than Dusty. By going the extra mile to also donate generously to ISDenver's Scholarship by Staff program, Dusty embodied the resilience and



kindness that makes ISDenver such a special place. We were honored to present this award to Dusty in the 2020 – 21 school year.

Past award winners include:

Ou (Yoyo) Bai 2019 – 20

Thompson Mahon 2018 – 19

Middle Schoolers Impact Change at Conference

Through the generous funding of Community Giving, ten Middle School students participated in the STAMP virtual diversity conference in Denver on April 9th.

The conference was appropriately named "From Quarantined to Informed Teen" and featured the amazing Lyla June Johnston as the keynote speaker. Lyla June Johnston spoke and sang about the powers of the indigenous community. Her message was about the power of healing, mindfulness, and community.

Students brought back incredible ideas on how to make our community a more inclusive place. They led advisories around the topic of self love. *****





To watch our middle schoolers engage with other teens, all sharing the same passion of creating a more accepting world, and further **to watch them bring this knowledge back to ISDenver with such fervor is what makes these conferences so important.** Even virtually, our students were active participants and looking to better both our campus and our greater community.

ISDenver Launches Largest Community-led Capital Campaign in the School's History

The International School of Denver, nestled among former airplane hangers and generals' quarters in the historic Lowry neighborhood—the original site of the U.S. Air Force Academy—welcomes over 700 students to its campus each year, grades pre-K to 8th grade.

The bustling Boulevard One development, coupled with other new retail, fitness studios, coffee shops, and eateries make Lowry a place where new meets old—and the campus of ISDenver is no different.

Building the space is a requirement. How we design and use the space is what makes us ISDenver.

This is where RISE comes into play, the largest community-led philanthropic campaign in our school's history. Led by an inspired, generous, and committed steering committee made up of board members and parents, RISE was formed to fund the construction of a new academic building, now called The Mary Louise Evans Building.

The Mary Louise Evans Building is designed to not only address a critical space constraint, but most importantly to create a thriving hub for our entire community and the main home for our Middle School students and teachers, who were previously scattered across campus. Every aspect of the design is purposeful, designed by our faculty, uniquely for our learners. ISDenver Dragons will enjoy light-filled spaces, designed around the concept of community and student-led learning. RISE donors are creating a oneof-a-kind teaching and learning environment that reflects our one-ofa-kind school. *

Building for a World-class Experience

Designed by our teachers for your children!

The MLE building to me means giving wings to an already outstanding program. Now our physical environment matches the caliber of teaching and learning offered at ISDenver.

> HOPE FORGEY MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

2020-21 IMPACT REPORT

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Mitch Holland, Fransen Pittman Construction, Alexis Wooll, Bob Carignan and RISE Committee Chair Misty Meade take a tour of the new building site during construction.

RISE(ING) IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Misty Meade signs a commemorative block.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of DENVER

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2020-21 IMPACT REPORT

It is exciting to be moving into a building that was **specifically designed to support the already great teaching and learning that is happening** in the Middle School. Even more exciting, is that **it opens up a world of possibilities** for new and innovative ways to deliver our world-class

ROB KAPNER

PRINCIPAL

education.