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Principal Update 3/7/2024

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International Community School News

Hello ICS Families!

It was great to connect with families at this week's PTSA meeting. You submitted some great questions to the PTSA. The PTSA leadership helped consolidate and prioritize the most common questions which I was able to address on Wednesday night. Over the next few weeks, I will use this forum to share snippets of the questions and answers with our community. I have attached the PTSA slides from March 6 for you to review. Additionally, you will find the PTSA newsletter attached this week as there have been some complications getting the message out via email. Both of these attachments will be listed at the bottom of this post.

Have a wonderful extended weekend with your families,

Jacob

Parent Question Spotlight

One parent asked how their child could take algebra and geometry in MS even though their grades in grade 6 math were not particularly great.

We want students to take the math courses with appropriate challenge. It is more common for students to take Algebra in grade 8 and Geometry in grade 9. This progression puts them on track to maximize our course offerings at ICS with AP Calculus. Quite a few of our families feel they need to accelerate their math progression through taking summer or online programs. As a school we do not recommend this approach as it frequently leaves significant gaps in learning. This is most starkly seen in AP scores of students in grades 11 and 12. Students taking the recommended course pathway (without taking courses outside of ICS) score an average of 4.71 on AP Calculus and Statistics exams. Students who skipped any courses by taking summer/outside work scored an average of 3.49. Additionally, we hear from our math teachers that students who accelerate outside of school have significant gaps and struggle in their courses and end up getting lower academic grades than their peers. AP scores and classroom grades are often heavily utilized by university admissions offices. Please carefully consider any plans to accelerate math progression and speak to your child's math teacher and counselor before making a decision.

ICS Graduation Date

The class of 2024's graduation will take place on Friday, June 14 at 4:30pm and Alaska Airlines Arena at the University of Washington. More information to come later.

PTSA Food Night

The **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee** is thrilled to announce that we will be hosting an **International Food Night (AGAIN)** in the **ICS Lyceum** on **Friday, April 19, 2024**, at **6:00 pm**. **Everyone** is invited to participate and **share food representing their cultures and heritage**. More details will be announced later, but to express your interest in participating in this event, please complete the following **form**. Please reach out to Tarek Azoz at tazoz@icsptsa.org if you have any questions.

Attendance

Please report student absences, late arrivals and early dismissal via email or phone call to Attendance. Please include your students' name, grade, and reason in your message. Informing via teachers' emails, the main office, or responding to the newsletter email which is set to 'do not reply' is not recommended.

Email: ICSAttendance@lwsd.org

Phone: 425 936 2381

Parents Bringing Items

There is a shelf inside the school entry for dropping off any items, such as lunches, books or homework for your student. Please make sure that the item is labeled with your students' name and that you have informed them. Laptops must be brought into the office.

Contact Information

Principal: Jacob Hendrickson

Associate Principal: Mike O'Donnell

Office Manager: Mamoona Zia

Attendance/Safe Arrival: 425-936-2381 or Email

Main Number: 425-936-2380

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