



**INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
DENVER**

**2022-2023
IMPACT REPORT**

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A Message from Our Head of School

As I finish up my fifth year as Head of School, it has been anything but a normal experience.

What has remained constant for me throughout this time, however, is the very **solid foundation of our community**. We like to say and hope wholeheartedly you believe it to be true: **You belong here. ISDenver wouldn't be the same without you.**

This school year was our first “normal year” since COVID-19, and it luckily came with so many delightful moments of us coming together again as a community. **Our beloved Parent Teacher Organization rebranded itself with a uniquely ISDenver twist as the Dragon Parent Association.** The DPA introduced the Dragon Buddy Program to pair those existing with new families. They also reimagined our signature community events that are intrinsically connected to our mission, vision, and values.

We experimented with new events and formats, introduced our celebrations of learning and culture, and expanded our art performances and exhibits. We kicked off the school year together as a community with a wonderful Cérémonie d'Ouverture, hearing a moving speech by our inaugural Head of School Award winner, Iben Last.

The school also had many exciting academic highlights over the last three years as we continued to move forward. The faculty and staff worked hard over several years to complete our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme application, and we were granted full certification as a PreK-8 IB World School. We also completed a comprehensive self-study to gain acceptance into the Association of Colorado Independent Schools, becoming fully accredited in January 2023. During that time, we also built a beautiful new state-of-the-art

academic building, the Mary Louise Evans Building (MLE), that will serve our students for generations.

This year's report explores all of this. **It is a glimpse into the essence of ISDenver as a global community equally rooted in tradition as much as we are guided by innovation and pedagogical best practices.** At the heart of the story is you. Our generous donors and volunteers who gave in a way that is meaningful to you and your family and helped enhance the ISDenver experience for all.

Sit close to your kids.



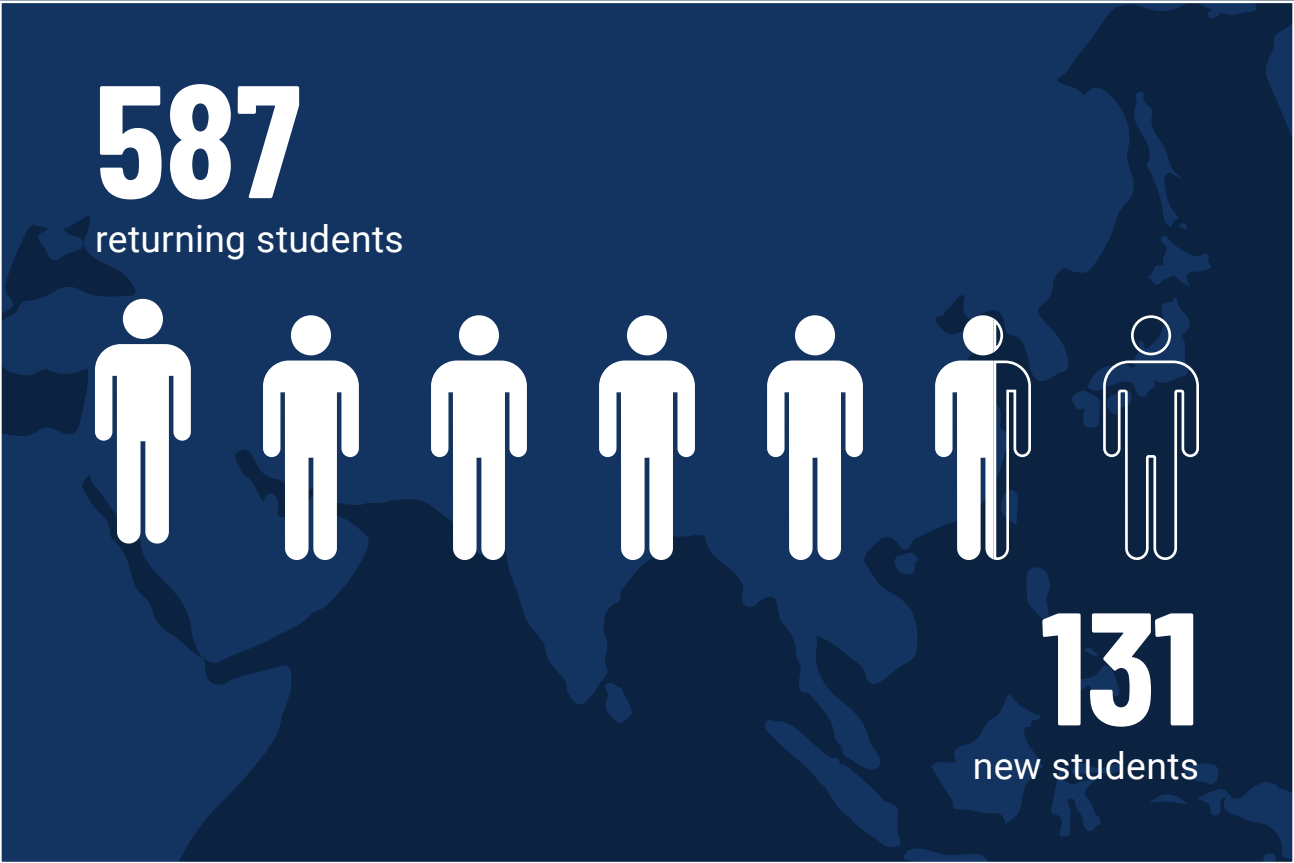
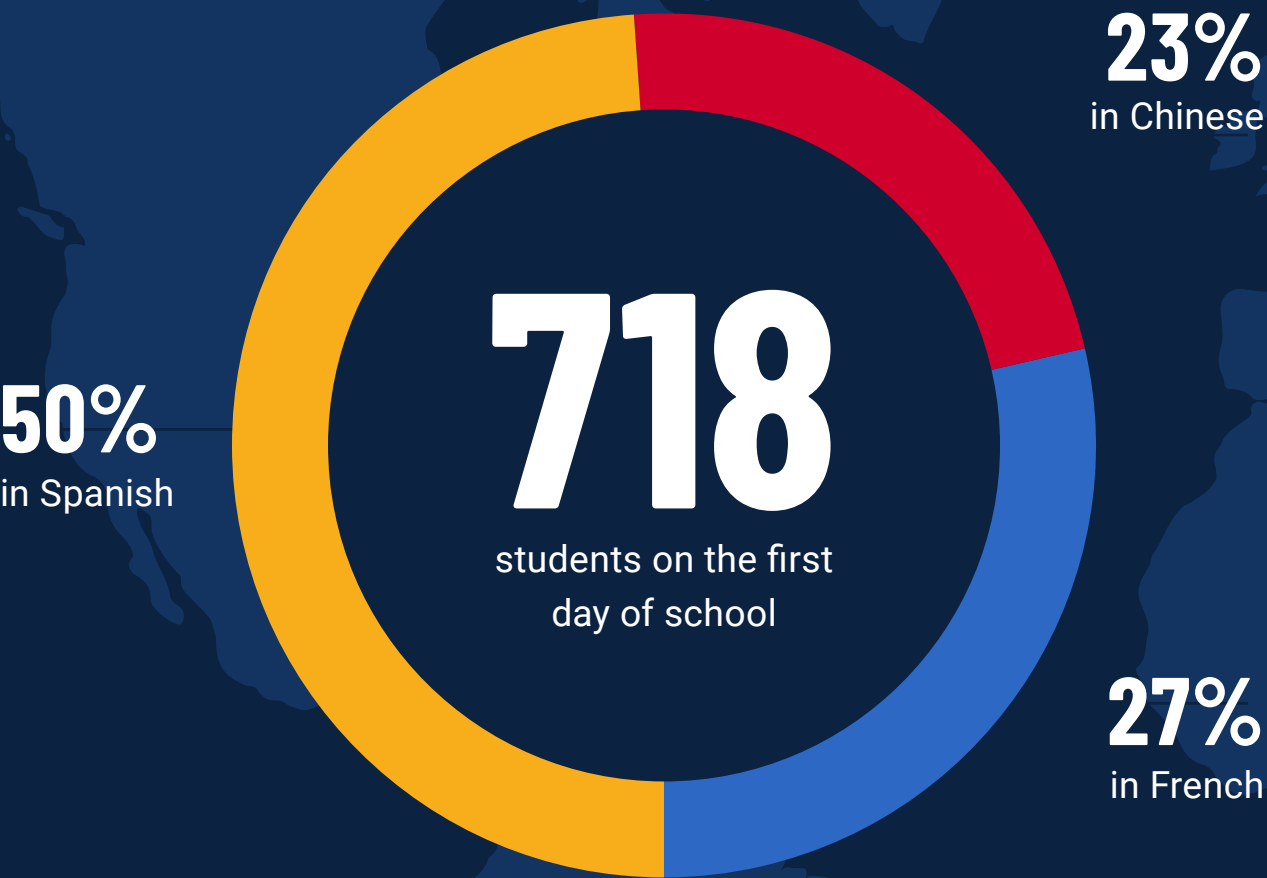
BOB CARIGNAN
Head of School



*...the children
were immersed
in a language,
a world class
IB program,
four wonderful
cultures, and
a community
who took such
wonderful care
of them that
**their joy was
contagious.***

—ACIS Accreditation Team

Admissions by the Numbers



48%

of students are exposed to another language at home

32%

of students identify with a race other than Caucasian

14%

of students have at least one citizenship beyond the US

30

countries with citizenship represented among students

A Message from Our Board Chair

I'll be the first to admit it. In reviewing our last few impact reports, we found a glaring omission. It has nothing to do with the reporting of our financial health. As we look to tell the whole story of our impact, the missing piece is that of our volunteers. We fixed that.

In this year's report, you'll find our Donor List is now inclusive of our volunteers. On pages 14-15, get to know the 2022-23 Community Engagement Chair of the Dragon Parent Association, and founder of the Dragon Buddies Program, Christina Brown.

You'll also see a few of our signature events featured that not only coalesce our community but also make it one I am proud to be a part of as both a parent and the Chair of the Board. From our Opening Ceremonies and the time-honored tradition of the

ringing of the bell by our 8th graders on the first day of school to our reimagined Night of the Dragon Tales to our end-of-year celebration, Viva el Dragón, I hope you'll feel deeply connected to the International School of Denver.

***Thank you
for giving so
generously in
a way that was
meaningful to you
and your family.***



KURT PLETCHER
Board Chair



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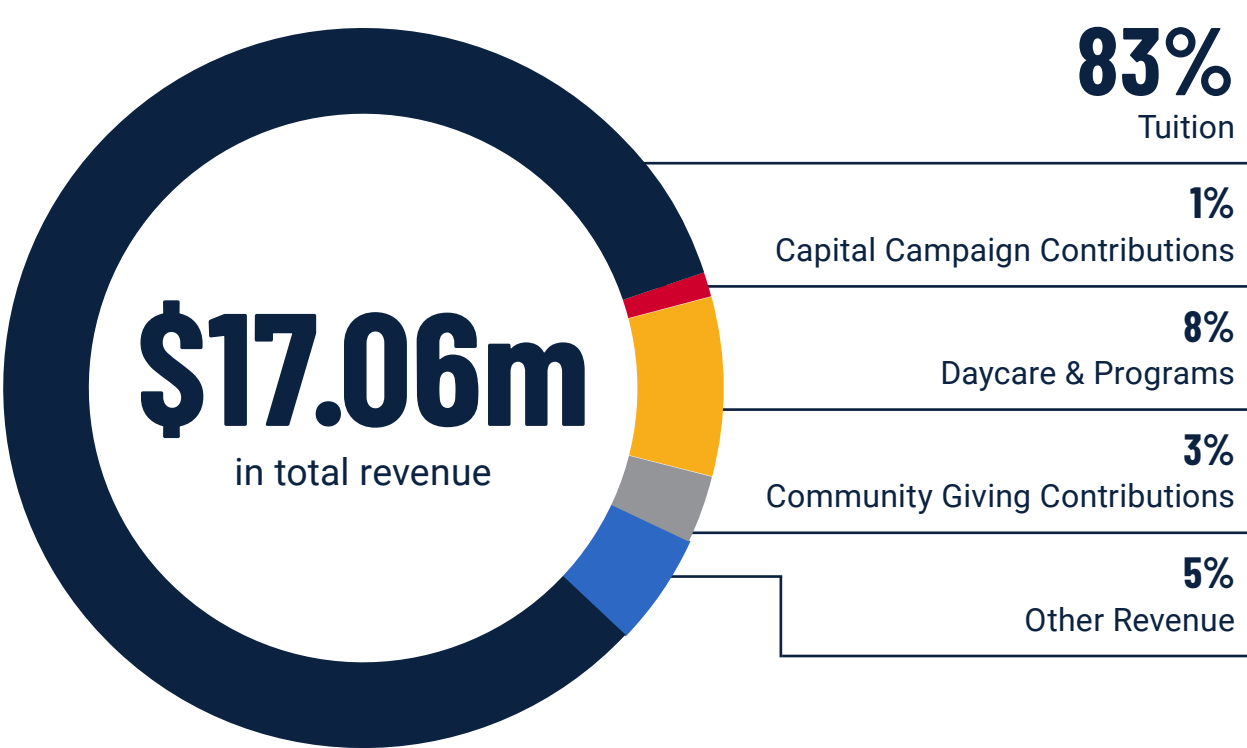
Paige Reberry
Member

Wendy Ware
Member

Bob Carignan
Head of School, Ex-Officio Member

Our Financial Health

REVENUE



Revenue Category	Amount (\$)
Tuition, net of Discounts and Financial Assistance	14,239,879
Capital Campaign Contributions	131,200
Daycare, After School Programs, and Summer Programs	1,383,820
Community Giving Contributions	531,020
Other Revenue	772,938
Total Revenue	17,058,857

EXPENSES



Expense Category	Amount (\$)
Educational	14,860,446
General & Administrative	3,466,601
Fundraising	410,235
Total Expenses*	18,737,282

*Total expenses include \$1.6M of non-cash depreciation expense.

Financial Assistance

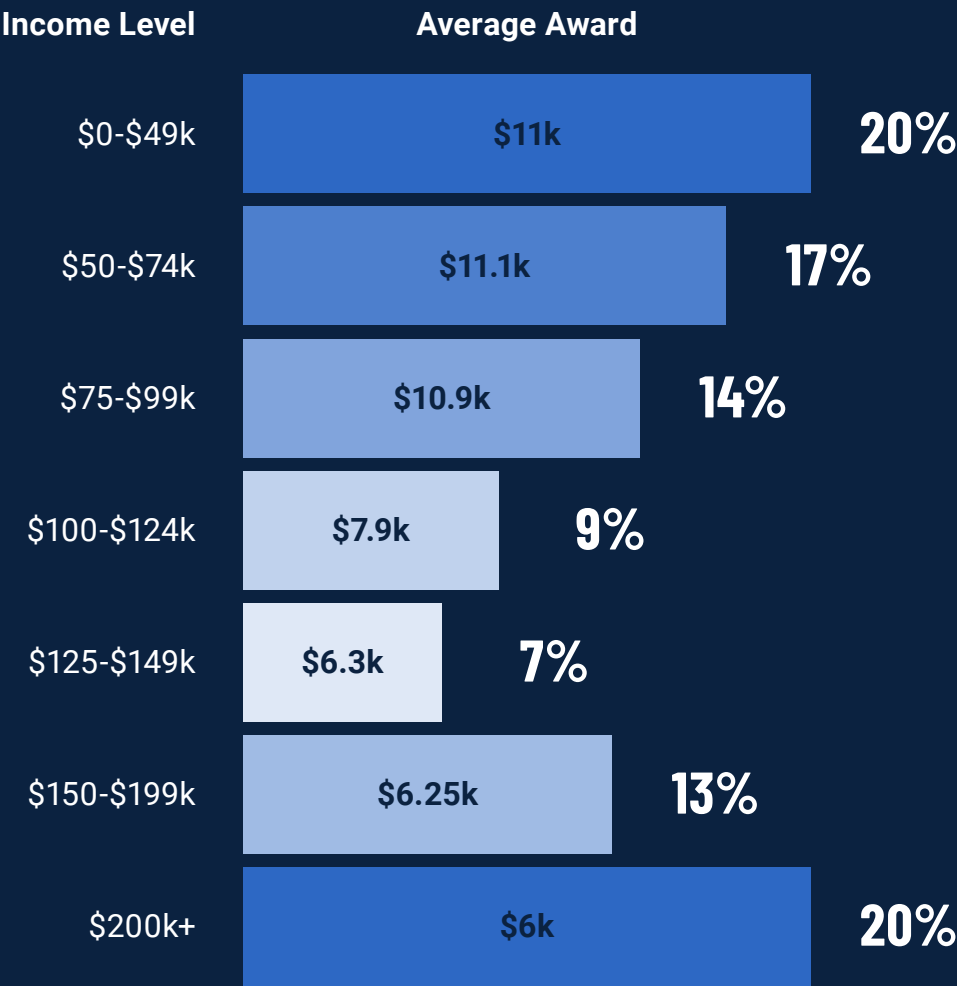
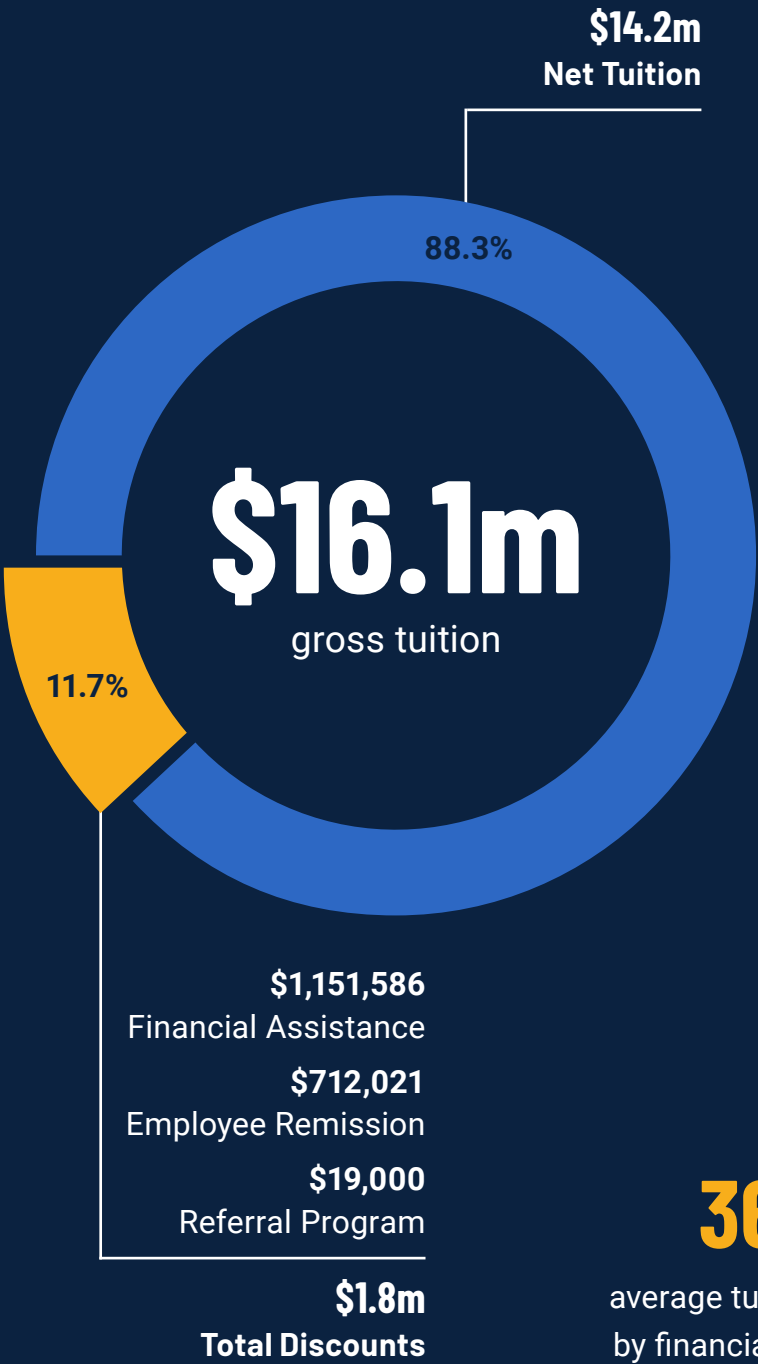
We strongly believe that finances should never come between a family and their child’s education. ISDenver is committed to economic diversity as part of our inclusivity, appreciating that we all have different backgrounds, circumstances, and stories.

Each year, ISDenver designates **approximately 11%** of our annual operating budget towards tuition discounting for our community, inclusive of financial assistance as well as tuition remission for faculty & staff families. **Our goal is to grow the amount awarded from 11% to 15%.**

Financial assistance for after school clubs, summer camps, and grade-level trips for our regularly enrolled families is also available - **so each student can experience everything an ISDenver education has to offer.**

By the Numbers

Families receiving financial assistance for the 2022-23 school year (based on gross household income)



36%
average tuition covered
by financial assistance

\$173,510
average household income
of families applying

20%
of our families
received assistance

EACH OF US CAN DO GOOD

Head of School Award Recipient Sets the **Tone** for the 2022-2023 School Year

Kindness matters. It matters to us so much that when we condense our mission down into a single boilerplate marketing message with what we are working to accomplish as a school, it is this: **Making the world more compassionate and curious, one student at a time.**

And this isn't just lip service. Over a decade ago, a group of dedicated faculty members envisioned the ISDenver Middle School. In doing so, they flipped the script on a traditionally accepted American model that Middle School is simply a place meant to be survived. Instead, they dreamed of students thriving. A place where

students are held to a higher standard and meanness isn't acceptable. A safe place where students can find their unique voice and practice using it.

This vision, coupled with our unique multilingual education model within the International Baccalaureate framework, makes what is happening inside our new Middle School building really special.

At our Cérémonie d'Ouverture kicking off the 2022-2023 school year, our Head of School Award recipient, Iben Last, an 8th grader nominated by Middle School faculty, gave a compelling address to welcome students, parents, faculty, and staff. Her message in a nutshell? **Each of us can do good.**

Her message left us misty-eyed and completely inspired. Her delivery? Funny. Articulate. Approachable. She embodies what we love about our entire school - and why we know what we say we do and what we *actually* do are in total alignment. We are making the world more compassionate and curious, one student at a time.



Three hundred years ago in England, John Wesley said, ***“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”***

That's a pretty high expectation if you're 5 or 9 or 13 or 78 year old. So what does it mean if I'm 5? Can a 5-year old do good? Totally. Can a 5-year old make their bed or pick up their toys or share with a sibling or friend or speak kindly to their parents? Can a 9 year-old help take care of a 5-year old or cheerfully help their parents? Can a 13-year old mow the lawn or take care of other chores without being asked or even help the 78-year old? All of these are doing good.

I like this quote because it can be applied to us in every stage, in every day of our lives. Each of us can do good.

Continued on the next page.



EACH OF US CAN DO GOOD

Why are we here today? Why are you here? Some of us may think coming to school is a chore. Some of us may love coming to school. Some 8th graders told me that they come to school because:

- Exposes them to new things
- Gives them time with friends
- Takes them outside their social comfort zone
- Opens doorways to future education
- Helps them acquire a foreign language
- Expands their career possibilities
- And some as you might have guessed because their parents make them

Hopefully each of us can find a personal reason to better ourselves and obtain an education. The word “education” comes from Latin words meaning to learn, to raise up, and to lead forth.

At ISDenver we can learn facts like science and math. We can learn arts like music and visual art. We can learn physical coordination through sports. We can learn to think through reading, writing, and foreign language study. We can learn that we can be friends even though we’re different. We can learn how to be leaders.

Leaders need to have integrity so they can be trusted. Leaders need compassion to understand how to help. Leaders need to be responsible – to correct their mistakes and to do their job. Leaders need to be willing to

persevere when the way is difficult. Our education at ISDenver provides each of us opportunities to learn and practice these leadership qualities.

Something we might not think about too often is that leadership is service. Leaders serve. Government officials are public servants. Many, if not most, occupations are service oriented, like education, law, and medicine. In each of our lives we can find examples of service. My grandparents worked and served as a rural, small town doctor, a captain in the army, elementary and middle school teachers, a family counselor, a school bus driver, a postal worker, and a naval petty officer. I admire their dedication and service to their family, their education, their religion, and their country. They used their education to serve others, and I know that we will and can do the same with the

education we receive at ISDenver.

Cheers to a year of new friends, new opportunities and lost jobs. I hope that we’ll all be able to work towards becoming leaders. Leaders that do good; leaders that: Do all we can, the best we can, for as long as we can, until we can’t.

IBEN LAST

Head of School Award Recipient

SPOTLIGHT

Our Outstanding *Faculty Philanthropist*

Meet Hope Forgey, *Outstanding Faculty Philanthropist* award winner

Five years ago, we started honoring an outstanding faculty philanthropist, recognizing those who loyally join so many of our parents in Community Giving each year and go above and beyond in partnering with the Advancement and External Relations team to advocate for the ISDenver Experience.

This year, we honor someone who pours themselves into anything and everything that promotes and advances our school. Hope Forgey teaches, coaches, mentors, cheers, and parents four ISDenver Dragons of her own, and on top of it all, she does everything she can to help us secure support. Hope participated in nearly every phone call as we raised \$4M to bring the Mary Louise Evans Building to life, sharing the history, story, and her passion for our incomparable middle school.



OUR SPANISH PROGRAM

A Role Model for the ISA

In a letter received from the Embassy of Spain, Dr. Jesús Fernández called the International School of Denver a “role model” for the International Spanish Academy (ISA) and specifically mentions the impeccable leadership of our Director of Spanish Program and Accreditation, Maria Rodriguez. The ISA - a network of 100 schools - is an important part of our partnership with Spain and the Spanish Embassy.



July 2, 2023

ISDenver is definitely a role model in our ISA network, a hundred schools around the country. We are honored to have your wonderful school onboard. Let me highlight the importance that Ms. María Rodríguez has in this collaboration. The persons in my team that have worked with her in the different programs above speak highly of her as a really committed, hardworking, enthusiastic, and proactive leader. I have had the privilege of meeting her in a couple of conferences, and I cannot but totally agree with that perception. We consider her a true friend of the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain and a major asset in our partnership with ISDenver and the state of Colorado.



DR. JESÚS FERNÁNDEZ

Education Counselor of Spain for the United States and Canada



OUR FRENCH PROGRAM

A Letter
From
**Philippe
Étienne**



CONSULAT
GÉNÉRAL
DE FRANCE
À NEW YORK

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

Dear Ms. Turner and Mr. Carignan,

December 20, 2022

Now that I have returned to Washington, I wanted to offer you my heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome you extended to me and the French delegation. I was delighted to visit your impressive campus and meet your teachers, staff, and students, especially at the luncheon you hosted for us.

These shared moments are enormously important for me because they allow me to express my deep gratitude and support to those of you who are on the front lines when it comes to promoting our language and educational model. You help foster France's influence and prestige in the United States, and through our lively conversations, I had the opportunity to see how lucky your students are to receive a bilingual education in compliance with AEFÉ standards.

During President Macron's state visit to the United States, he highlighted the "French for All" initiative, stressing the need to adapt to today's learners, needs, and diversity. I am glad to note that your school is wholeheartedly responding to the President's call through your high-quality immersion program.

Sincerely,



PHILIPPE ÉTIENNE
Former French Ambassador
to the United States



A STEM EDUCATION

Project Lead the Way

We are preparing our students for a future in which they will need to be continuous learners and problem solvers, adaptive to disruptions, to contribute positively. We integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) directly into our inquiry programs in Primary School. At a time when many schools have stopped teaching these STEM skills to students this age, we invest in making our program more robust and world-class. In addition to introducing new learning opportunities to students, we've also provided professional development with an International Baccalaureate science consultant to enrich our units and enhance our teaching practices.

Beginning in Spring '21, ISDenver implemented Project Lead The Way (PLTW) as a comprehensive strategy to enhance STEM education in the classroom. These activities foster critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and collaborative skills. They also help students develop essential data analysis, communication, and project management skills while promoting their familiarity with technology and the scientific method. PLTW fits dynamically into our Primary Years Programme units of inquiry, reinforcing

our learners' ability to explore their world in tangible ways, creating lasting and meaningful knowledge they will carry into the future. Such an approach also reinforces our prioritization of Spanish, French, and Chinese learning standards in tandem with Colorado state standards; in G1-G3, most of our science lessons are delivered in target language classes, and science is team-taught in G4-G5.

PLTW Lesson Examples

01

Second-grade students explore states of matter and chemical reactions by creating "Elephant Toothpaste" as part of their How the World Works unit.

02

Fourth-grade students explore energy (for their own How the World Works unit) by designing vehicles capable of carrying an egg and withstanding a crash into a stationary object.

In addition to the STEM studies, students enhanced their communication and technology skills by documenting their processes and outcomes technologically.

This year, we were recognized as a PLTW

Distinguished School; our Primary School students are now joining their Middle School peers in benefitting from hands-on, integrated, and cutting-edge science education as part of their ISDenver journey. Looking forward, we're conceptualizing a Primary School maker space to engage our learners in more innovation, collaboration, and creativity.

STEM education is pivotal in today's world, preparing students for future career opportunities and promoting creativity, collaboration, scientific literacy, and critical skills. Integrating STEM activities in the classroom helps to equip students with the skills needed for success in the modern world as the next generation of problem-solvers and innovators. It is our honor and privilege to witness the success of teachers and students as they engage with these vital skills.



AN INTERVIEW WITH

Christina Brown



Get to know the 2022-23 Community Engagement Chair of the Dragon Parent Association and founder of the Dragon Buddies Program, Christina Brown.

Q: What three things should we know about you?

CB: 1. I grew up in Germany and moved to Mexico in my early twenties to gain experience in my profession and get to know the culture. Later on, I applied for a job in the US and lived and worked in several different states for international companies. While I immersed myself in a different culture, I learned it is vital to surround yourself with people who have had similar experiences to you because they can relate to you. **2.** I love traveling, spending time with my family, bringing people together, and creating friendships with like-minded people. **3.** I like to put myself out of my comfort zone by doing things like improv theater.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your family.

CB: We are a multicultural family. I am German. My husband is American, and my daughter (15) and son (13) have both nationalities and are continuing the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Littleton High School. We speak

German and English at home and foster the connection to their culture with yearly visits to Germany.

Q: What drew you to the International School of Denver? What made you stay?

CB: We were looking for an International School in Colorado with a focus on immersion language that has a multicultural community. It was important that our kids continued on the IB path, and after our look-and-see trip and the shadow day at the school, we knew we belonged here. During COVID, we were impressed by how Bob Carignan, our Head of School, led the school through the toughest, most uncertain times. Keeping the school open during COVID was a tremendous effort on his team and he proved to be a strong leader. "When times get tough, leaders get really big or really small." That made us stay.

Q: What was your role with the Dragon Parent's Association?

CB: In the first year, I started as a Community Engagement Chair. My

goal was to revive our community, which suffered during the first year of COVID. I thought about what kind of events would be possible and would give parents the chance to meet each other as well as bring families together. In the second year, I continued that role and suggested and implemented the Dragon Buddies Program to strengthen the sense of belonging, especially for new parents.

Q: Tell us about Dragon Buddies and how the idea was born?

CB: I had a lot of conversations with a diverse group of parents (K1 through middle school). The common theme was: We love the school. My child is thriving, but we as parents want to feel more connected. So, I thought if just one family reaches out to another family in the beginning of the school year, more connections will be fostered.

Q: What is the point of the program?

CB: Create a sense of belonging early on for every new family joining the school. The first 6 months are crucial

INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINA BROWN

for supporting those families. Moving countries/states or just switching schools is a big change in a family’s life. The sooner you feel connected the sooner you belong and can settle into your new environment. I also believe if you delay the connection building it might not happen at all and you feel awkward.



Q: How does it work?

CB: We ask for volunteers among all returning families who have been at the school for at least one year. These are then the dragon buddies. All new families will be given the option to join the program if they are interested. We created simple preference criteria (same language program, same grade, close living proximity) by which they would like to be matched with another family. If you can meet another family who has lived in Spain, France, or China or has one parent who speaks the target language, it makes your experience richer.

Q: Did the first year of Dragon Buddies accomplish what you hoped?

CB: Yes and beyond.

Q: What do you hope to see in its second year?

CB: I hope that families who have

been welcomed warmly by their dragon buddy will pass it on in the next couple of years to make someone else feel welcome.

Q: What is the best way for parents to get connected with DPA volunteer opportunities?

CB: On our DPA website we have a quick link where parents can sign up for a role or even just to help at one event. If you have questions about a specific event, you can also just e-mail Janet Yenter, the Director of Community Engagement.

Q: What is a highlight from your time in the DPA and what will you remember most?

CB: Our first Pumpkin Party in 2021. COVID was still going on, but we realized that social connections were essential, and it was rewarding to see the kids and parents join and engage and be so thankful for the space we created for them to make new connections.



Many schools have a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), but ours has a Dragon Parent Association (DPA). Our global community is so special that it makes sense we have something uniquely ISDenver. The DPA enhances the ISDenver experience by building community among families and staff through the oversight and support of volunteer-led events that support the school’s mission, vision, values, and beliefs.



Night of the Dragon Tales

Night of the Dragon Tales is an enchanting evening of crafts, snacks, and theatrical storytelling led by our Middle School students! Our annual Night of the Dragon Tales brings together stories presented in all of our target languages (English, French, Chinese, and Spanish), delighting both children and families.



Viva el Dragón

Our end-of-year community celebration, combined with our 5th Graders Primary Years Programme (PYP) Exhibition, Middle School Art Showcase, and our 8th Graders Capstone Project is the perfect way to cap off an extraordinary school year. With international cuisine, entertainment, games, and more, this event encapsulates the uniqueness of our multicultural community - and is full of fun for kids and parents alike.



Thank You to Our Community Volunteers

DRAGON PARENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Christina Brown
Tiffany des Cognets
Alina Dumitrasc
Pat Douthat
Erica Garcia
Traci Pole
Carrie Wernecke

GALA COMMITTEE

June Dirstine
Leah Pytel
Holland Darcy
Justin Darcy
Paige Goodson Reberry
Kourtney Lagunes

ROOM PARENTS

Roxanne Ambrose
Eli Anderson
Kelly Atkins
Michaela Barotz
Leah Berg
Alyce Blum

Katharine Brenton
Michelle Cahill
Lucian Deaton
Angela Downes
Kerry Fleischer
Christine Gillete
Ana Paula Góes Hees
Lindsay Goldstein
Barbara Gueldner
Clarisa Hernandez
Meghan Herwehe
Lisa Higgins
Nancy Holum
Cerena Ishaq
Steph Koussaya
Kourtney Lagunes
Isabelle Lion
Brett Maley
Andrea Martinez
Sherrie Miller
Kelly Montoya
Gemma North
Liza Olson
Meg Parker
Kara Pollack

Stephanie Reddy
Tiffany Richards
Denise Sanchez
Tiffany Shane
Shirly Shay
Yin Stein
Cara Sterling
Celeste Stragand
Michelle St. Martin
Hirshini von Kalm
JoJo Zheng

DRAGON BUDDIES

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Sarah Donaldson
Brandon Feters
Alina Dumitrasc
Sara Froelich
Lindsay Goldstein
Alberta Utech
Traci Pole
Sophia Ferber
Kelty Fehling
Stephanie Reddy
Carolyn Rossi Purtle
Debie Jacobson

Pat Douthat
Linsey Weller
Alice Sheehan
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Christina Brown

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Kara Pollack
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Cara Sterling
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Annie Barocas
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Kassy Khandelwal
Kourtney Lagunes
Rich Levine
Yoyo Sinnott
Alberta Utech

Thank You to Our Donors

The following list of individuals and organizations represents the donors who have made gifts from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

+ Rise Campaign Donor

* Faculty/Staff

COMMUNITY GIVING

Anonymous + (6)

Anonymous (13)

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Kacy & Ed Adams

Bahareh Dehdashtian * and
Shahab Akhavan

Allyson and Mike Alexander +

Marisa and Jordan Alger +

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Nichole and Andy Altorfer

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 Emily Kapner + *
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 Ellie and McClure Kelly
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Donovan Wick +
Gemma North and Adam Kogeman +
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Ryan Kovalak +
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Katie * and Nicholas Kroeger +
Jennifer Kwak and Matthew Kruger
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Nathan Landrey
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Syndy and William Lee
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Stephanie Owens and
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Michelle and Matt Lewis
Theresa Bui and Ben Li +

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Amanda and Sean Miller +
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Eloise and John * Mulroy +
Paula Younger and Jason Munoz +
Jenny * and Brock Nealon
Mod Chohanadisai and
Thomas Notides +
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Kristy * and Tayo Okunade +
Liza and Ryan Olson
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Connor O'Neil
Joey Ortega
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Barb Gueldner and Brian Paul +
Karl Paymah
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Jen and David Pelcyger
Jenn Hess and Jack Perkins
Laura and Chad Perlov +
Lindsey Peters + *
Katherine Taggett and
Trevor Pettennude
Jaime and Jay Philp +





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 Carolyn and Steve Purtle +
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 Andrea and Nick Schommer +
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 Yoyo * and Martin Sinnott
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 Cissie and Max Stich +
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 Kayla Wilcken +
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 Ted Swenson +
 Mia Weber and Stephen Tindle +
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 Toby and Casey Vader
 Ivy * and Ross Vaisman
 Anne Mehlman and
 Youngblood Valdez +
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Alina Dumitrasc and Robert
Rudolf Eric Vincze +
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Hirshini and Henning von Kalm +
Tina and Chris Wall +
Adrianne Sloan and John Wallace +
Elaine Scallan Walter and
Nicholas Walter
Pam and Douglas Walter
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Eileen Wang and Evan Brennan
Wendy and Andrew Ware +
Errin Weller and Jeff Franklin +
Linsey and Matt Weller +
Rebecca and Cooper Williams
Alyssa and Seth * Winnerman +
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Kim and Whitt Wyatt +
Jessica Zhou and Richard Xiong
Elaine and Charlie Yang +
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JoJo Zheng and Tom Kuhn

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