

Principal Update 9/13/2024

International Community School • 3 days ago • Friday, Sep 13 at 4:00 PM • **International Community School**



International Community School News

Hello ICS Families

It was great connecting with families at our first PTSA meeting this week. I spoke about Camp Phoenix and the need for male chaperones (contact the PTSA if you can help out), but also highlighted the next steps of our work together strengthening the retention rates of HS students at ICS. When we collected data through focus groups and from surveys last spring, experiential learning and International Baccalaureate Diploma Program were elevated by all stakeholders as enhancements that would lead to higher retention rates in the high school years. Below are brief summaries of what I spoke about at this week's meeting.

- Experiential learning: ICS will continue to enhance and improve our already established fall camp and Focus Week experiences. Additionally, we have established a faculty committee to explore and learn more about ways our students can engage in meaningful ways with other community organizations, businesses and more.
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (grades 11-12): ICS has finished its application for candidacy and paid its fee to the IBO. We are now waiting to be assigned a candidacy consultant that will help our school establish the Program that will be the best fit for our school. All stakeholders will be engaged in this work, as we aspire to an implementation date of the 2026-27 school year. Our current grade 9 class would be the first cohort of students that would enter the program. There is a lot for our community to learn

about the IB. With that in mind, we plan to share an overview of the Program at the next PTSA meeting on October 10.

Have a wonderful weekend with your families and look forward to seeing you at Curriculum Night next Thursday!

Jacob

Student Growth Goals

Part of Washington State’s teacher evaluation process includes elements of student growth goals. This process helps teachers identify specific groups of students with academic gaps that might benefit from additional approaches to accelerate their learning. Washington State has updated the process to include parent voice. This means that some of our teachers might contact you to get information about your child’s educational journey and collect ideas about how to better support them in their classes. We know that strong partnerships between faculty and parents enhance student outcomes.

Meet the Teacher Night

September 19, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. All parents are invited to experience an informational session with their students' teachers. This event will be on campus. Here are the timings for the evening.

Period	Start	End
Period 1	6:30	6:40
Period 2	6:43	6:53
Period 3	6:56	7:06
Period 4	7:09	7:19
Period 5	7:22	7:32
Period 6	7:35	7:45
Period 7	7:48	7:58

In an effort to be environmentally conscious, we will not be printing schedules for parents. Please write down your child's schedule AND room number so you know where to go. You can also access schedules with room number on Skyward. You CANNOT find room numbers on ParentSquare.

Attendance Expectations

- Washington state law says students must attend school.
- We expect students to be on time for all the classes unless there is a reason.
- Students will be marked absent if they miss **more than half** of the class period.
- Absences can be **excused** if parents/guardians contact the school.
- Absences are **unexcused** if no reason is given by the parents/guardians
- Students are responsible for making up their missed work.

Key Vocab:

- **Excused absence** - If parents/guardians contact the school about the student's absence with a valid reason, the admin decides whether the reason is valid.
- **Unexcused absence** - The parents/guardians gave no valid reason, or there was no contact from the parents/guardians within 24 hours.

If arriving late to school...

- School starts at 7:50 am this year
- Arriving between 7:50 – 8:00 --> Go directly to class.
- After 8:00 am -> Go to the student services office and sign in **BEFORE** going to class.
- Students coming to class after 7:50 will be marked late for class (Tardy).

Please review the ICS attendance guidelines [here](#). Thank you.

Picture Re-take Day

The school photographer will be here again on Monday September 30, 2024. Students will be called during class to get their picture taken.

State Fair Tickets

Tickets to the Washington State Fair will be distributed during Phoenix Time on Thursday next

week.

Payments

Need to pay class fees or purchase ASB Sticker? Fee collection starts in September.

- Class fees (Science, Art) - starting September 18
- Camp Phoenix - starting September 4, due by end of day September 22
- PE Shirts (6th Grade Only) - starting September 4
- ASB Sticker & Yearbook - starting September 4

Pre-pay online class fees, ASB membership, & yearbook using the **online payment portal**. On campus payments are taken at the front office (cash, check, credit card).

Attendance

Phone: **425 936 2381**

Email: **ICSAttendance@lwsd.org**

Please report student absences, late arrivals and early dismissal via email or phone call to Attendance. 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.

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.

Label Personal Items

Please label all personal items with your students' name. If the item is lost, we can connect it back to them. Last year students lost headphones and cases, cell phones, backpacks, clothing, glasses, water bottles, jewelry and wallets.

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

International Community School

11133 NE 65th St, Kirkland, WA 98033