

Principal Update 03/28/2025

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International Community School News

Hello ICS Families

We are excited about the future of ICS and the introduction of the IB Diploma Program in the 2026-27 school year. ICS remains a special place with a smaller community that promotes academic rigor, inclusiveness and strong relationships between students and between teachers and students.

The months of March and April are critical times for schools across the district. These are the months that we take course requests from our students, receive staffing allocations from the school district and begin to build student schedules for the 2025-26 school year. This year things are a bit more complicated as we have reduced the number of courses students take from 7 to 6. As in the past, we ask our families to make their decisions about returning to ICS by January/February. This is the time when all schools start collecting student course requests and build their schedules.

It is worth noting that when students change schools late in the registration process, it is difficult if not impossible to get all of the desired requests at your new school as those courses may already be filled.

Late departures at ICS are even more complicated. We build our schedule based on student requests in January and February. When families make their decision to leave ICS in spring and summer it puts our school in a complicated position. Our schedules have been built, staff have been allocated to ICS and we may now have student openings late in the school year or even the summer. We have found that incoming families are less interested in making a transition to ICS in the months of May, June and during the summer, as they have already been mentally prepared for their transition to their neighborhood school. If families leave and we are not able to fill the vacant spots, this could directly affect the number of courses we are able to offer.

We hope each of our wonderful families returns to ICS next year. If your family is still deciding about returning to ICS next school year, we ask that you finalize this decision and inform ICS as soon as you are able.

Have a wonderful weekend with your families,

Jacob

Spring State Testing Starts Soon for our Students

Each spring, all Washington public school students in grades 3-8 and 10 are assessed in English Language Arts (ELA) and math using Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 are also assessed in science using the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS).

Results from these assessments provide meaningful feedback and data that teachers and other educators can use to help students succeed. The results provide data to help evaluate school-level and district-wide instructional strategies, initiatives and other programs.

Our students will be testing on: April 7-11. Learn more about the state assessments on the district website: **[Assessments & Surveys - Lake Washington School District](#)**

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](#)**

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