



International Community School News

Hello ICS Families!

Happy Friday ICS!

Last week I wrote about how our community arrived at experiential learning, interdisciplinary connections and the IB Diploma Programme as potential enhancements that might increase the retention of HS students at ICS. This week, I will explain how we decided which of these options we would implement at ICS.

In April and May of 2024, we shared surveys with parents, teachers and students at ICS. The survey asked each stakeholder group how these enhancements might improve the retention of HS students. The survey results were:

How likely would the following enhancements help retain students through graduation?

- Experiential Learning (46% very or extremely likely to retain students)
- Interdisciplinary Connections (30% very or extremely likely to retain students)
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (62% very or extremely likely to retain students)

I shared the results of this data with our community and with LWSD cabinet level leaders (including the superintendent and deputy superintendents). The data from our community was compelling and led to a decision to pursue candidacy in the IB Diploma Programme and to expand experiential learning opportunities for our students at ICS. The IB Diploma Programme also supports and promotes experiential learning through Creativity, Activity, Service component of the IB Programme and interdisciplinary connections through the Theory of Knowledge class that IB students take. Ultimately, IB proved to support the ethos and mission of ICS which will strengthen the other enhancements of experiential learning and interdisciplinary connections.

Ms. Jackson (IB Coordinator) and I had the opportunity to share information at the general PTSA meeting on Thursday night. This included:

- Upcoming parent meetings
 - Grade 10 IB Information Night on November 18
 - Grade 8 & 9 Registration & IB Information Night on January 29
 - Counselor/IB Coordinator Coffees
- Updated IB information on the **ICS website**. This includes an **IB section** and brand-new **FAQ section**.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to share smaller pieces of information about the IB Program at ICS.

Have a great weekend with your families,

Jacob

Advanced Placement exam registration information for 2025-2026 school year

Registration and payment is open September 29, 2025, 12:01AM until October 20, 2025, 11:59PM for Advanced Placement exams!

We encourage all students who want to take May 2026 AP exams to complete the registration on time and pay for their exams during this period.

Exam information, exam dates, costs, late registration windows/fees and cancellation fees can all be found on our new LWSD Advanced Placement webpage.

Please note Exam registration and exam payment are separate required processes.

1. Students register for exam(s) via AP Central. AP teachers will have the codes that students use to register for each course exam.
2. Students who are self-studying for an AP exam should reach out to Meggan Houlihan, at mhoulihan@lwsd.org, ICS Advanced Placement Coordinator for an 'Exam Only' join code.
3. Students pay via LWSD Online Payments or directly to our ICS school bookkeeper, Ms. Hopwood (Visa, Mastercard, Discover/ Cash / Check payable to LWSD). Students can pay for their exam(s) from September 29 until October 20.

Regular exam fees are \$101 per exam. Students needing help with financial assistance should contact their counselor, Rebecca Zavala (rzavala@lwsd.org).

An AP Late Registration window will be offered in February. Students who register during this late window will pay an additional \$50 per exam late fee in addition to the regular exam fee.

Payments

Need to pay class fees or purchase ASB Sticker? Fee collection begins on dates below:

- Class fees (Science, Art, Music) - begins September 24 and due by October 24
- ASB Sticker & Yearbook - available now
- Payment Options: In Person: Front Office, 10:30 AM–3:00 PM / Cash, Check (payable to ICS), Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover) or online payment portal.

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.

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.

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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