



International Community School News

Hello ICS Families!

I had the privilege of attending a conference with almost 20 leaders across the district this week. Learning focused on enhancing school and team effectiveness. As with any training/learning, I was able to celebrate what practices we already have in place at ICS and identify potential areas of growth that will enable our school to strengthen student experiences and learning further. I am grateful for the ICS team that picked up the slack in my absence.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend with your families!

Jacob

IB at ICS (by Lauren Jackson, IB Diploma Coordinator)

The DP Core

One part of the IB Diploma Programme that sets it apart from other curricular programs is what is called the IB Core—learning that goes beyond the regular courses in typical high school subject areas. The Core consists of one mini-course, **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**, an in-depth research paper, **Extended Essay (EE)**, and a set of activities outside the school day, **Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)**. Each of these components is designed to develop our students into thoughtful, balanced, and capable humans.

TOK is an interdisciplinary **course** designed to foster critical thinking & presentation skills and based on **questions such as:**

- How do we know what we know?
- How can we determine truth? What might keep us from knowing the truth?
- How and why is knowledge produced/shared/accepted/rejected?
- How do our values and beliefs affect knowledge?
- What role do experts play? How important are tools in production of knowledge?

It's not only taught as a separate course but also embedded into all the IB courses. TOK asks students to consider who they are as a Knower in a set of communities of Knowers. They also study **Areas of Knowledge**: arts, human and natural sciences, history, math, **Themes**: language,

indigenous societies and **Concepts**: evidence, truth, certainty, justification, power, culture, objectivity, perspective, values, responsibility.

I will share more about TOK, EE, and CAS over the next few weeks, but if you have a student in 8th, 9th or 10th grades, please join us for our **IB Information Night next Tuesday, November 18 from 6:30-8pm in the Lyceum**. All students and families' grades 8-10 are invited to attend, but the information is designed for grade 10 students who are starting the programme next fall. We will have another info night for grades 8-9 in January.

Levy Information - Looking Ahead to February 2026

With the November election behind us, we want to take a moment to remind our community that our district will have two levy renewals on the ballot in the February 2026 special election. It may seem early to share information about these measures, but we want to be sure our staff and families have the opportunity to ask questions and learn how these measures support our students.

In the coming weeks we will continue to share updates and resources, but in the meantime, you can learn about these measures at <https://www.lwsd.org/2026-levies>.

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: ICSAAttendance@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

**International Community School
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