



# What to expect when joining the ICS community

## ICS Student and Family Expenses

The International Community School cultivates curiosity, complex reasoning, problem solving, and global awareness in every student. The emphasis on visual and performing arts, humanities, and international studies and extended learning programs offered at **ICS (International Community School)** require funding beyond the per-pupil allotment provided by Lake Washington School District and Washington State. These programs at ICS exist because of the **essential commitment of ICS staff, the PTSA, and all ICS families.**

Over the last decades, ICS families have contributed well over \$3 Million and hundreds of thousands of volunteering hours to create, build and maintain our unique environment.

**ICS STAFF COMMITMENT / Grant Funding:** ICS staff actively pursue grant funding for specific needs related to Education and Community Stewardship projects. Since ICS opened in 1999, the community has secured well over **\$50,000 per school year** in grant funding to directly support student programs.

### **FAMILY COMMITMENT: ICS Family Contributions (Essential) in time, expertise and resources (money):**

Family contributions are **essential** to sustaining the extended learning programs that make ICS distinctive, including Focus Week, Camp Phoenix and clubs. Families need to join and actively participate in the PTSA. Supporting the community includes paying PTSA fees and recording yearly volunteer hours.

**ICS PTSA MEMBERSHIP: All ICS families are expected to join the PTSA.** As a school community, ICS is committed to **no school-sponsored fundraising programs**, but each family is asked to make an **annual fall contribution (average range \$225–\$500 per child; some families contribute well over \$1,000 per year)** to the **ICS PTSA**, in lieu of all other fundraisers.

In 2025/26 the **minimum expected contribution is \$225** at beginning of the school year.

**CORPORATE MATCHING:** Many employers offer matching donations for charitable contributions of money or volunteer time. The **ICS PTSA is a 501(c)(3)** organization. Matching funds received by the PTSA are used for programs, supplies, and expenses that benefit **all students.**

**COMMUNICATION:** Families receive emails from PTSA and from Principal weekly. ICS -PTSA channels are primary source of information for our community.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS: (Essential) – minimum 30 hours per year per family:** ICS extended learning programs—Camps, Phoenix Day, Focus week etc., and special projects—depend on **extensive and essential family volunteer participation.**

The breadth and quality of these programs are only possible when families actively contribute their time.

**CAMP PHOENIX (fall – OVERNIGHT camp):** All students participate. In 2025/26, each student pays a **\$250 food/supplies fee** for the camp.

**FOCUS WEEK (spring):** Students select from activities offered by ICS teachers (and supported by family volunteers). Cost varies from free to **\$400 for local activities** and **up to \$2,500** for occasional cross-country travel opportunities.

Grade 9 and 12 overnight camp experiences for all students cost approximately **\$300-500**. *Scholarships are available.*

**ASB: Associated Student Body (official student government organization). All students are expected to join the ASB; \$40 annual fee**

**MATERIALS FEES: Usually around \$100 per year and student (e.g. art and science materials)**

**CLUBS:** ICS offers a wide range of clubs, and they are a key part of the ICS experience. [Activities & Clubs - International Community School](#).

Clubs: Have a teacher assigned and **depend on family volunteers and financial contributions.** Some clubs are free, others require fees.

For clubs like FBLA, Mock Trial, MUN, HOSA or FBLA, expect **\$200-\$400 per year to attend competitions.** Some clubs are competing on state and national levels, require students to travel to participate. Flight and accommodation can cost **over \$1,000** per student per event.

Parent volunteers (4+ days) are essential as chaperones. The Ski Bus requires families to provide Ski passes and equipment in addition to the fee for the bus itself.

Plan for daily **TRANSPORTATION** to and from school. **ICS Shuttle Bus (Optional / lottery):** Lake Washington School District offers an optional shuttle bus service for ICS students. For the **2025–2026 school year**, the annual cost is **\$375.**

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: “All are welcome!”:**

*Confidential financial assistance for some program expenses is available through the ICS School counseling office.*

*Flexible volunteer arrangements are available through the PTSA board.*

*Families who wish to donate to the financial assistance program are welcome to do so.*

***“ICS is a great place when we all pitch in.”***