INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OF BUDAPEST









2025-2026
ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY • INTEGRITY • GROWTH

Director's Letter

Dear ICSB Community,

As I reflect on this school year as well as my entire tenure at ICSB, I am deeply grateful. We have witnessed God’s faithfulness in every season—through both challenge and growth.

It has been a joy and privilege to serve alongside such dedicated staff, supportive families, and inspiring students. Together, we have built something meaningful that will continue to grow and impact lives.

As I step out of this role, I do so with confidence in David Kelley’s leadership and with hope for all that lies ahead for the school.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during my time at ICSB.

With gratitude,



Dr. Kristi Hiltibran

Milestones

During Dr. Hiltibran's tenure, ICSB experienced significant growth with a focus on long-term sustainability. The following highlights reflect the collective efforts of the school community over the past eight years:

STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND STABILITY

- Maintained stability through the COVID-19 pandemic and regional uncertainty
- Implemented a 10-year strategic plan centered on Students, Programs, Staffing, Funding, and Facilities
- Successfully completed ACSI/MSA reaccreditation

COMMUNITY AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

- Developed an intentional spiritual growth framework and established a chaplain team
- Launched a Parent–School Association to strengthen partnership between ICSB and its families

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Updated legal frameworks, including significant charter revisions
- Strengthened board membership, governance practices, and board policy development
- Advanced school policy and procedure development, including emerging areas such as AI and GDPR
- Restructured operational models, including budgeting, school fees and staff compensation
- Established an advancement team, expanding communications, admissions, community engagement, fundraising, and the school's digital presence
- Increased enrollment by 28%

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Embedded MAP Growth (NWEA) and WIDA testing into school practice to enhance student assessment and support diverse learning needs
- Increased time and investment in professional development, strengthening faculty capacity to support student learning
- Expanded the use of key technology systems, including Microsoft 365 and PowerSchool, alongside upgrades to equipment and infrastructure

Mission and Vision

ICSB has a compelling and enduring mission to "**partner** with families by offering their children an **excellent Christian education** in English that prepares them for university, in an environment that encourages them to wholeheartedly follow **Christ**."

Our vision and hope for our students is that they will grow into:

- Christ-Followers
- Active Thinkers
- Effective Communicators
- Global Citizens
- Faithful Stewards



Year in Review



Staff Retreat



Field Trips



DVAC Sports



Christmas Programs



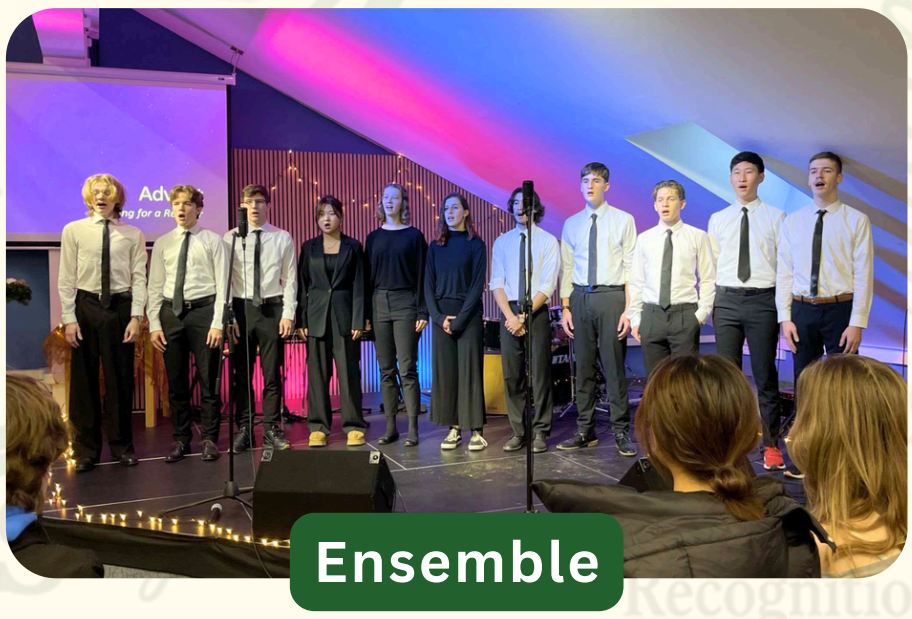
Seussical Jr.



Musical Performances



Winter Classic



Ensemble



Battle of the Books



International Festival

Year in Review



Celebrations of Learning



Fine Arts Festivals



Honors Music Festival at the Basilica



Beauty and the Beast



Chapel Series



Staff A.I. Training



Middle Grades Retreat



Upper School Retreat



Community Service



Family Field Day

ICSB Houses









A New Chapter for ICSB Houses

This year marked an exciting new chapter for our House system, designed to strengthen community across grade levels. Each House, named in honor of ICSB's first four directors, carries a lasting legacy. With refreshed logos and shirts, students experienced a growing sense of belonging, while new activities throughout the year brought the community together in meaningful ways.



Next year will bring a meaningful structural shift in the Upper School: our Student Council (**STUCO**) evolved into the House Council (**HOCO**), now led by a HOCO President. Each house is represented by **three captains**, broadening student leadership opportunities and ensuring every house has a strong, active voice.

"Our Future is Now"

Quotes from the 2025-2026 Yearbook

" ...I am reminded that even in the unknown of the future, light shines through when we walk in step with Jesus. At our core, we value growth, community, and integrity—and this year, we've seen these lived in awesome ways."



David Kelley
Lower School
Principal



Michael Southwell
Upper School
Principal

"ICSB sends the class of 2026 into the world to make a difference for God's glory and the rest of us take a step forward...As we follow Christ into the future, guided by new leadership, I am confident that God's purposes for ICSB will continue to be fulfilled through the mission, vision, and values that are upheld by the ICSB students, parents, and staff!"

By the Numbers

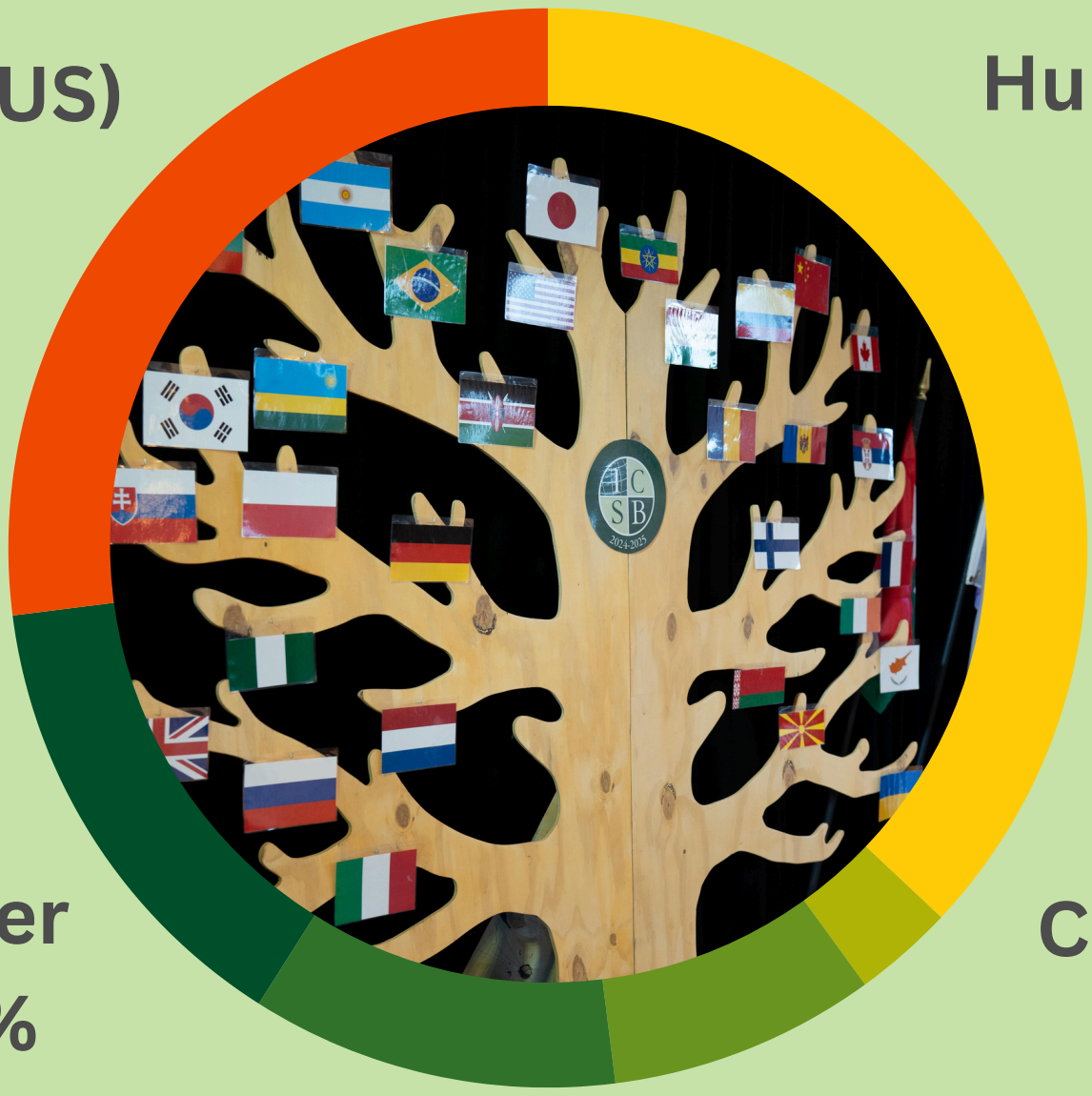
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

284
Students

33
Nationalities

46%
Children of ministry families

Our Nationalities



American (US) 27%

Hungarian 37%

Other 14%

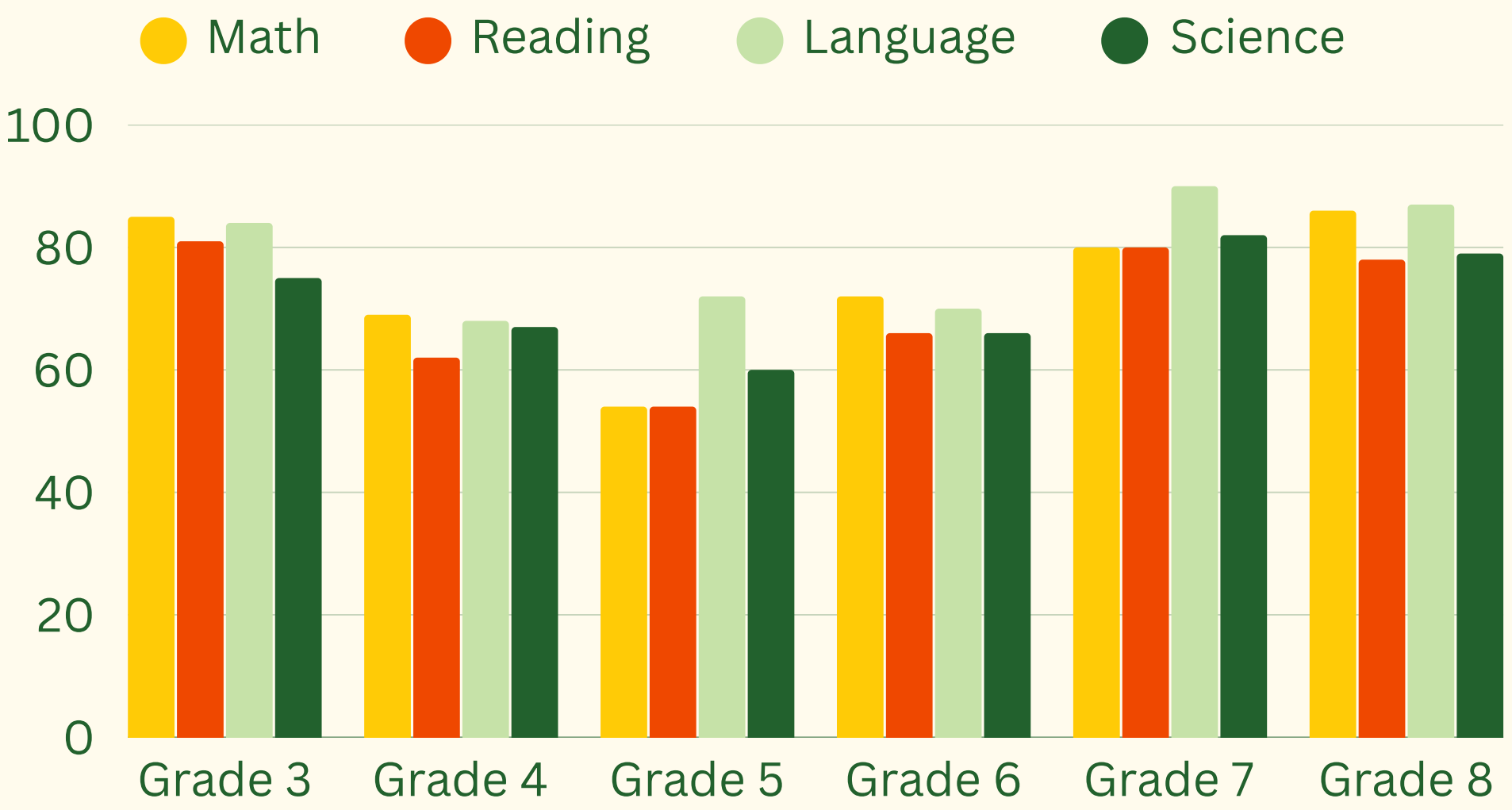
Korean 11%

Ukrainian 8%

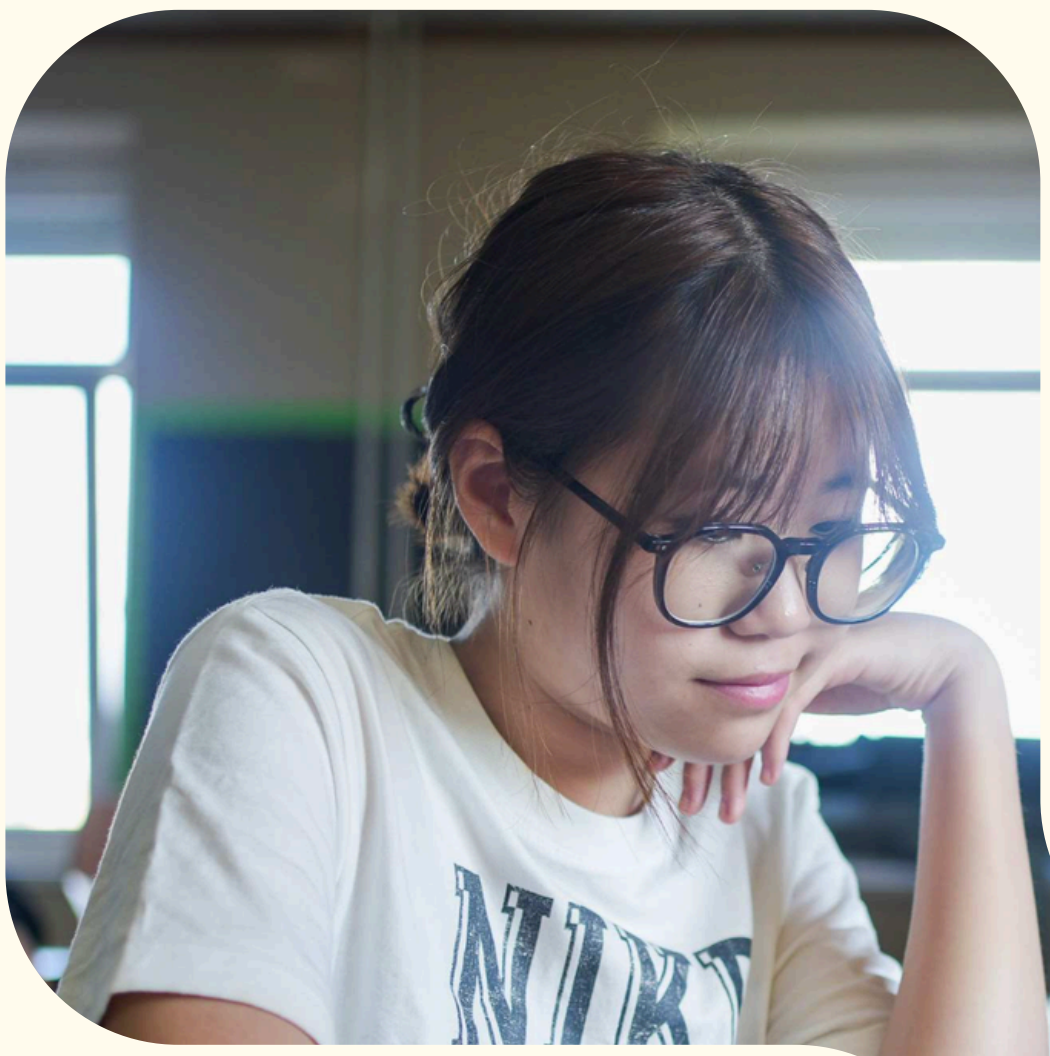
Chinese 3%

NWEA MAP Testing

SPRING 2026 MEDIAN PERCENTILES



We are pleased with the outstanding academic progress of our students—many of whom are learning in their second or even third language. Across all grade levels, median scores were above the U.S. average, an achievement that reflects the dedication of our entire learning community.







nwea map®

AP Classes and Exams

8 **AP courses** offered at ICSB

53 ICSB students enrolled in **AP classes**

119 **AP exams** taken



SAT EXAMS

1266
ICSB average total score

25
ICSB students represented

1037
Worldwide average score

PSAT EXAMS

1109
ICSB average score

33
PSAT exams taken

987
Worldwide average score

Averages are calculated by CollegeBoard and represent a 3-year average.

Athletics

An impressive 135 (71%) of our Middle Grades and Upper School students participated on our soccer, volleyball, basketball, track and field teams, and our swimming club.

4

4 DVAC Championships: Varsity Girls Basketball, JV Boys Volleyball, Middle Grade Girls A and B-Team Basketball

5

5 Budapest Cup Championships: Varsity Boys Volleyball, Varsity Girls Volleyball, JV Boys Volleyball, Middle Grade Girls Volleyball, and Middle Grades Girls A-Team Basketball

1

1 Winter Classic Championship:
Varsity Boys Basketball

12

12 Individual DVAC Titles: 2 gold medals in Swimming and 7 gold medals in Track and Field, including 7 school records broken

DVAC
DANUBE VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE





Class of 2026

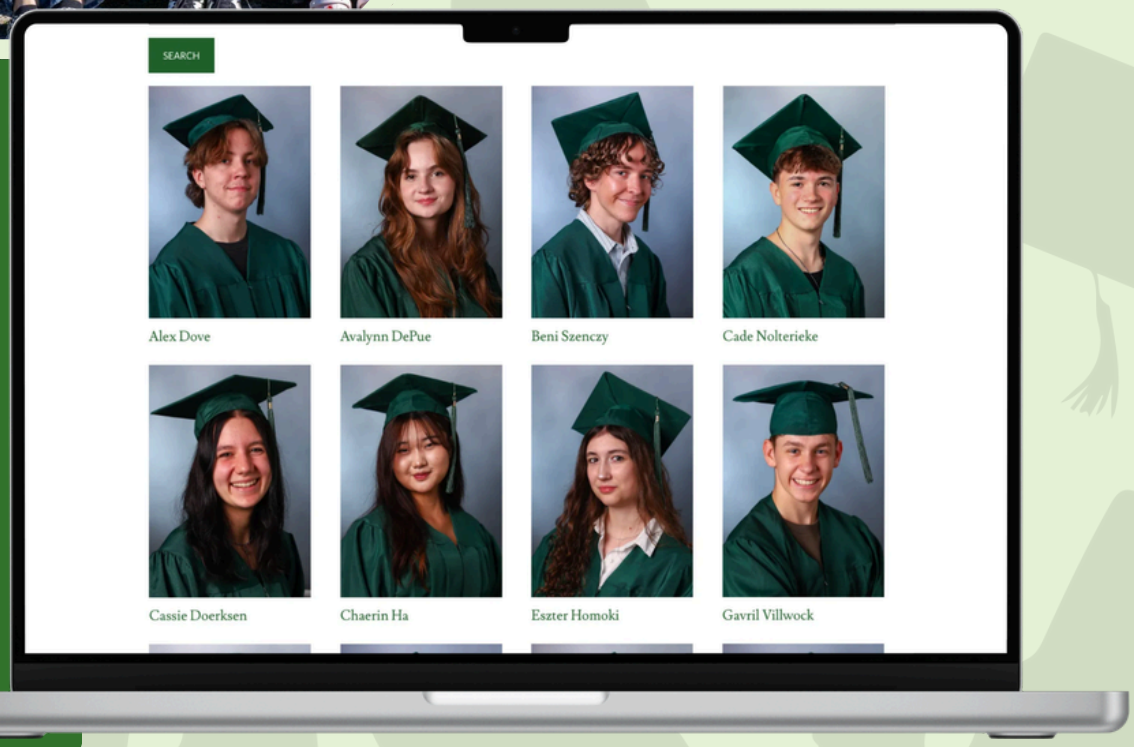


We joyfully **celebrated** our **28 seniors** at their June 13 commencement ceremony!

The **Class of 2026** has excelled in and out of the classroom. Most are heading to higher education, while others will take a gap year or explore next steps.







Read about their favorite **ICSB memories** and their **future plans**, and watch the graduation ceremony recording on our **Graduation Hub**.

SEE OUR GRADUATION HUB

30 Years at ICSB

Thirty years is not simply a milestone — it is a testimony. These two colleagues have given three decades of faithful service to ICSB, shaping students, supporting families and staff, and strengthening this school in ways that reach far beyond any classroom or office. We are deeply grateful for their commitment, their perseverance, and the lasting mark they have made on our school's story.



Rebecca Lingenhoel

1994-1997, 1999-2026

Music, Band, Choir, Ensemble, and Drama Teacher, Musical Director, NHS Advisor

Ildikó Appel

1996-2026

Receptionist, HR Specialist, Hungarian Affairs Administrator





Thank you!

Leaving Staff

Thank you for your service!

We are grateful for every year our departing staff members gave to ICSB and the lives they touched along the way. We wish them well in the chapter ahead.



Kristi Hiltibran

2007-2026

1st Grade Teacher, Elementary Principal, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Director

Anna Kovács

2010-2026

Kitchen Supervisor





Ágnes Dóczy-László

2011-2026

Kitchen Staff

Ron Thiesen

2012-2026

Upper School Science Teacher, Bible Study Greek, Boys Basketball Coach, Track Jumps Coach, and Senior Class Sponsor



Thank you!



Bonny Thiesen

2016-2026

Upper School Teacher
& Senior Sponsor



Jess Jenkins

2018-2026

MG English & ELL Teacher, ELL Coordinator, House Program Founder and Sponsor, and Girls Volleyball and Basketball Coach

Rachel Stowell

2018-2026

MG and UPP Teacher, StuCo Advisor, Academic Field Trip Leader, Volleyball Stats & Upper School Musical





Ani Toncheva

2018-2026

Library Assistant & Early Grades P.E.

Eric Frey

2021-2026

Schoolwide Counselor



Thank you!



Henry Dykes

2025-2026

Middle Grades History Teacher



Anna Marie Ward

2025-2026

1st Grade Classroom Teacher



Joanna Gallagher

2025-2026

Upper School Teacher: English EFL, The Bridge Sponsor, Swing Dance Club Sponsor, and Upper School Musical Choreography.



Seth Gallagher

2025-2026

IT Department



Faith Birnstein

2025-2026

Early Grades and Middle Grades ELL

Board of Trustees

A NEW DIRECTOR

The Board reached its goal of naming a new Director in the fall of 2025, and has overseen a smooth and purposeful transition. **David Kelley** will begin leading ICSB in July of 2026.





GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

The Board engaged in a mid-term review of **ICSB's strategic plan** to ensure **continued alignment** with and **progress** toward key objectives.

To further **strengthen governance practices**, they participated in targeted training and conducted a membership review aimed at enhancing effectiveness.

The Board also approved the **initiation of plans to reconfigure facility spaces**, aiming to support anticipated growth in student **enrollment** while enhancing the **quality of instructional spaces.**

Looking Ahead

A YEAR OF TRANSITION

This year marks a season of leadership transition at the school. **David Kelley** has been appointed as our new **Director**, transitioning from his current role. **Cristiane Santos** will step into the **Lower School Principal** position. Additionally, **Amy Leamon** will lead **Learning Support Services**, a newly combined division of ICSB. We are grateful to have such skilled and dedicated leaders guiding our community forward.







A YEAR OF GROWTH

The 2026-2027 school year is fast approaching! We look forward to welcoming a record number of students, as well as new staff from around the world.

292
students enrolled

9
new staff members

Annual Fund 2025-2026

YOUR IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

Our second Annual Fund raised over 8.5M Forints ($28,000) and our community's generosity is already making a meaningful impact on students:

- Staff attended **CSPN Child Safety Training** and an ACSI Leadership Conference, strengthening the care and guidance our students receive
- A **glockenspiel, baritone, and percussion stands** were added, enriching our students' musical learning and performance opportunities
- Matching Upper School **warm-up jackets and new branded volleyball pads and nets** have been ordered, enhancing school spirit and supporting our athletes
- Our **mobile app was upgraded and a website AI chatbot launched**, improving communication and connection for our school community, with more enhancements planned

MAKE A GIFT

We continue to accept charitable gifts. Please prayerfully consider supporting our students' learning!

www.icsbudapest.org/give

Parent Ambassadors



OUR PARENT AMBASSADORS...

...played such an important role in strengthening our community. Your enthusiasm and support helped spread the word across the entire ICSB parent community—we truly couldn't have done it without you!

THE 1994 SOCIETY MEMBERS

Our leaders in giving

As leaders in giving, **1994 Society** members contributed 100,000 Ft or more to the Annual Fund. The ICSB Board and Leadership expressed their gratitude through special gatherings, sharing the school's story and future plans.



We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported our **Annual Fund**. Every gift—no matter the size—made a meaningful impact. This is, and will continue to be, a true community effort.

Annual Fund Gifts

THE 1994 SOCIETY GIVING CIRCLES

FOUNDERS CIRCLE
500,000 Ft and above

Dévay Family
Drewitt and Goulbourne Kft.
Anett and György Kolozár



TRUSTEES CIRCLE
250,000 Ft-499,999 Ft

Curby Family
Kristi and Todd Hiltibran
Revell Family
Oleksandr and Yulia Zibarova

DIRECTORS CIRCLE
100,000-249,999 Ft

ACIS Wash Kft.
Dave and Jenn Kelley
Eugene and Mariana Simonov
Gao Family
Gleason Family
Gránitz-Fülöp Family
Kim Family (David and Gunn)
Heni Jordan
Játékos Family
Kim Family
Komoróczy Family
Lázár Péter and Szilvi
Not Invisible Production Kft.
Rachel Stowell
Shin Family
Stephan and Kim Cecil
Steve and Cheryl Winget
7 Anonymous Supporters

GREEN AND WHITE GIVING CIRCLES

SUSTAINERS CIRCLE
50,000-99,999 Ft

DePue Family
Dr. Arányi Dániel Ügyvédi Iroda
Elaine Qili Chen
Grace Kim
Kovalenko Family
Kurunczy Family
Majer Family
Orosz Family
Tang Family
Tonchev Family
Tóth Tamás
Will Santos
Zoli and Ashley Kovacs
5 Anonymous Supporters

Annual Fund

ADVOCATES CIRCLE

25,000-49,999 Ft

Bekka Olandt
Czomba family
David Buckley
Endicott Family
Erdélyi Family
Eric and Staci Frey
Gary and Kim Rickard
Gyenge-Somfalvi Family
Kyle McEachron
Lauderdale Family
MaryBeth Endicott
Reed Family
Ron and Bonny Thiesen
Stuart and Beth Ferguson
Tommy & Dana Dove
9 Anonymous Supporters

SCHOLARS CIRCLE

10,000-24,999 Ft

Burgess Family
Daniel and Christy Kihm
Dojcar Family
Gál Family
Ha Family
John and Tricia Fraser
Sawyer and Kate Smith
Sieon Nam
Szklenár Family
Wang Family
Wilthshire Family
10 Anonymous Supporters

FRIENDS CIRCLE

Up to 10,000 Ft

Culbertson Family
Hannah Hocutt
Laura Danneker
Lee Family
Zhao Family
7 Anonymous Supporters

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

Your generosity impacts our students and staff every day!

Please prayerfully consider supporting ICSB in 2026-2027 as well!

Annual Report



ONE

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ”

Ephesians 4:4-6

ICSB’s 2025-2026 Staff Retreat theme and verse

ICSB IS ACCREDITED BY:

ACSI ACCREDITED

MSA CESS