

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly newsletter brought to you by Principal Rodrigues



VOL. 9, ISSUE 1

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Welcome to a New School Year



Welcome to a new school year. Our theme this year is "*BE THE ONE....*" As part of our ministry we are called to *BE THE ONE...* to help our students be active persons of faith, life-long learners, active citizens, and self-aware individuals. We can encourage our students to *BE THE ONE* to initiate hello, invite a new student to play, to share, and *BE THE ONE* to encourage others. Our theme will have many applications throughout the year and will give us opportunities to celebrate the children and one another.

PK4: Laile, Jesse, Norman, Elizabeth, Desmond, Emilia, Olivia, Oliver, Elinor, Mateo, Benjamin, Abigail, Elizabeth

K: Pieper, Gurjeevan, Caoilfhionn, Matthew, Johan, Alexandra, Ellen, Tristan, Lars

1st: Lucas, Bronwyn, Evan, Hana, Aliyah, Mary, Truly, Jade

2nd: Ari, Sawyer, Preston

3rd: Mary, Amos, Linkyn

4th: Ashlynn, Fernando, Wyatt

5th: Ava

7th: Kaylen, Finn

ICRS is proud to announce that this year we have 42 new students, two returning staff and three new staff members. Please extend a warm welcome to new students, staff and families.

Mr. Vince Fejeran is returning to teach music and band, **Mr. Jack Eisses** is returning as our bus driver, and **Mrs. Brooks** will be our new PT Librarian and a PT aide. New to staff this year are **Mrs. Marina Munoz** who will join the preschool team as a new teacher's aide and **Ms. Kristen Thomas** who will support student learning as a classroom aide. We also have a new bookkeeper, **Mrs. Bev Dimock**, an alumnus and former parent.

Welcome to **Mrs. Kathy Cartee** who will step in as the interim principal during the first semester of school. Mrs. Cartee was principal at ICRS from 2002-2010 and has been my mentor over the years. She is familiar with our school culture and many of our staff. Over the summer, she and I have worked together, in collaboration with the Office of Catholic Schools and Fr. Tom, to prepare for a new school year. She will be a blessing to the school.

My interview team and I continue our search for the best fitted Marketing and Development Director for the school. More to come.

As for me, my surgery went well in June. I've been working in the office throughout August and am feeling great. I am still in the process of learning what my post op program will entail and when it will begin and end. More to come on that. You will all be in good hands under the leadership of Mrs. Cartee.

Upcoming Events



August

- 1-31st, M-Th, 9am-3pm, School Office Hours
- 25th, 11am-1pm, COVID Vaccination clinic at St. Joseph Center
- 31st, 5:30pm, Preschool Parent Meeting on Zoom, Kinder Parent Meeting on Zoom,
- 31st, **6:15pm, K-8 New Family** Orientation on Zoom (**1st-8th new families note new time**)

MONDAYS: 8:45am, Scrip orders due
TUESDAYS: Spirit Day (students can wear spirit day shirts)
WEDNESDAYS: 9:30am LATE START
FRIDAYS: 12pm, Scrip orders ready for pick up.

September

- 9/2, 5:30pm, 1st-8th, Back to School Night, via Zoom
- 9/6, **Labor Day, Holiday**
- 9/7, **First day of school for K-8th, noon dismissal**
- 9/7, 8:45am-10am, PK4 Open House for parents and students
- 9/8, **9:25am, Weekly Wednesday Late Start.** (K-8 students who arrive between 8:40-9am should check in at St Joseph Center for quiet study hall.)
- 9/8th-10th, 11:30am dismissal for Kindergarten
- 9/8th-10th, 11:45am dismissal for PK4
- 9/3, First Full Day of school for Kinder and PK4

COVID Updates for the Start of School



ICRS follows the guidance of the governor, the local Dept of Health (DOH) and the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff and is committed to providing school in-person, five days a week. Guidance flexes with new information related to COVID. Today, this school year will look much like last school year with a few changes.

ICRS will continue a layered approach to support a safe learning environment.

- Students and staff will continue to wear masks throughout the day, including on school bus rides. Teachers will build in “mask breaks” daily. Students should bring three clean masks to school daily. Tri-layered masks will be provided to students during music class.
- Windows and doors will remain open (weather permitting) and air purifiers in each class will help maximize air circulation in learning spaces. Bus windows will remain open (weather permitting) during rides to maximize air circulation. Teachers will conduct learning outside when possible.
- Students and staff will practice physical distancing—3 feet in classrooms, 6 feet elsewhere. Student desks and lunch areas include sneeze guards as an extra cautionary layer.
- Students will wash their hands with soap and water frequently, especially before lunch, after bathroom use, and after sneezing or coughing. Hand sanitizer will be used if soap and water are not accessible.
- Classrooms and common areas are cleaned, disinfected, sanitized daily. Shared classrooms (tech, library, music, PE, art, and lunch room) are sanitized between groups.
- Students who are sick on campus, will be isolated and checked for COVID symptoms. Parents will be called to pick them up ASAP. Follow the guidance of the DOH and your child’s pediatrician.
- Families can help by keeping sick students home and seeking evaluation by your child’s pediatrician. See here for [COVID symptoms](#).
- Families can help by calling the school when their child has been exposed to COVID and following the guidance of the DOH and the school.
- When there is an exposure at school, the principal will send out communications to families whose children are affected by the exposure via email and text. The school is obligated to report school exposures to the DOH and OCS.

ICRS will implement the following changes which are different from last year.

- Students will come to school 5 full days a week, 8:25-2:55, for in-person learning. Parents can begin forming the AM ferry line at 8:10am (9:10am on Wed), and PM line at 2:40pm (11:40am when there is noon dismissal).
- Morning temperature checks and attestations will be discontinued.
- In the event that there is an exposure at school, students and staff with proof of full vaccination will be exempt from quarantining if they do not exhibit any symptoms of COVID. Children 12 and up are able to receive the COVID vaccinations. Students with proof of vaccination may be exempt from quarantine, however should continue to monitor for symptoms over a 14-day period.
- Per State mandate and the Archdiocese, teachers, staff and volunteers working with children will need to demonstrate evidence of vaccination (i.e., showing official vaccination records).

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Are kids allowed on campus/in the gym Wednesdays before school as they were in previous years? ***K-8 students who arrive between 8:40-9:10am on Wednesdays should check in at St Joseph Center for quiet study hall. The Wednesday ferry line begins at 9:10am.***
2. Is there extended care available to all families this year? ***We are still limited to 20 students per adult. Families should contact ExtendedCare@icrsweb.org to ask about availability. ICRS will add a 2nd adult if needed.***
3. Are parents allowed to walk up to drop off/pick up their kids or do they need to remain in vehicles like last year? ***ICRS parents will form a ferry line for drop off and pick up. Drivers should remain in their cars.***

Please submit your questions to admissions@icrsweb.org.

Immaculate Conception Regional School



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ICRS Mission Statement:

Immaculate Conception Regional School provides an education rooted in Catholic beliefs and values for the students in Skagit and surrounding counties. ICRS emphasizes the spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical development of its students, while fostering community among students, parents and staff.