

August 2021

Dear ICS Families,

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year! We hope that you have had a relaxing and fun summer. Our team is committed to providing a robust, supportive, and safe learning experience and we are excited to reconnect with each of you and are certain that despite the challenges this past year has brought us, the future is bright.

Over the summer our team has meticulously and thoughtfully planned for a full return to in-person learning anchored in our values of community, growth, courage, and equity. As we look ahead we are eager for you to partner with you in this journey and we anticipate that this school year will require us to remain nimble and diligent as we *regroup, rethink, and reboot*.

We are delighted to welcome our students and implement our new learning and resources!

Best,  
CEO Tanya & Pr. Kristen

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## **COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies**

[ICS' Health and Safety Plan](#) outlines the strategies in place to maintain the health and safety of students, staff and visitors in accordance with all federal, state, and local guidance.

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## **Water Bottles**

One of ICS' COVID mitigation strategies is a lockout of all water fountains. Therefore, it is extremely important that all students bring a water bottle to travel back and forth from school. It must be labeled with their name.

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## **Construction Update**

We are excited to announce that construction of the new addition is officially complete! Our students will have a new cafeteria, gym, rooftop playground, and additional classroom space. We look forward to hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony.

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## New School Day Hours

### ICS' School Day Schedule for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays:

- Student Arrival Time (**NON-school bus students**): **7:30 - 8:00**
- Instructional Start Time: **8:00** (students marked late beginning at 8:00)
- Student Dismissal Time for **1st-6th grade and Kindergartners with siblings in 1st-8th grade at ICS: 3:05**
- Student Dismissal Time for **Kindergartners without siblings in 1st-8th grade at ICS: 2:45**
- Student Dismissal Time for **7th and 8th Grade: 3:25**

### ICS' School Day Schedule for Wednesdays (including the 1st day of school):

- Student Arrival Time will remain the same as the other days of the week.
- Student Dismissal Time for **1st-6th grade and Kindergartners with siblings in 1st-8th grade at ICS: 1:05**
- Student Dismissal Time for **Kindergartners without siblings in 1st-8th grade at ICS: 12:45**
- Student Dismissal Time for **7th & 8th Grade: 1:20**

**We recommend that all students arrive to school by 7:50 every day.** Students are marked late if they do not arrive to school before 8:00. The only exceptions are for students whose school buses arrive late (*not* Septa).

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## Start Dates

- **1st Day for 1st-8th Grade:** September 8th (note: this is an early dismissal Wednesday time of 1:05)
  - **1st Day for Kindergartners with last names A-K:** September 9th (arrival time of 8:50 on 1st day only)
  - **1st Day for Kindergartners with last names L-Z:** September 10th (arrival time of 8:50 on 1st day only)
  - **1st Day for ALL Kindergartners: September 13th** (regular arrival time of 7:30-8:00)
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## School Bus

Parent Notification Letters (PNL) from the School District of Philadelphia with student's school bus assignments should arrive in the mail the week of August 29th. If you have not received

your letter by September 3rd you may call 215-400-4350 to get the information. If you have questions or concerns after receiving your letter you can email [transportation@icscharter.com](mailto:transportation@icscharter.com)

If you are sending your child to an independent after school program please email [transportation@icscharter.com](mailto:transportation@icscharter.com) by September 6th.

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## Back to School Nights

This year Back to School Night will be virtual via Zoom. It will be on Thursday, September 2nd from 5:00-7:00. Please check your email for zoom links as we get closer to the date.

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## Health Requirements

- **Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> graders:** You must submit updated immunizations **and** an updated health assessment for students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Exam must be dated between September 2020-August 2021. Under PA law, we must receive updated immunizations ***within the first 5 days of school.***
  - **Parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders:** You are required to submit an updated dental assessment for students entering 3rd/7th grades. Exam must be dated between September 2020-August 2021.
  - **Parents of kindergartners and new students:** You are required to submit a health assessment and dental assessment, both dated between September 2020-August 2021.
  - **Medication and medical conditions:** If your child receives medication during the school day or has a serious medical condition such as asthma or life-threatening allergies, you will need to submit the appropriate forms signed by your physician. **See Tr. Natalie's Summer Mailing email for links to the forms, or pick them up in the front office.** All medication must be delivered to school by an adult. You may bring medication and signed form during the week of August 30. **The nurse cannot administer medication without the required paperwork.**
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## Staff Transitions

We are pleased to announce that several of our current staff are transitioning to new positions for the 2021-22 school year:

- 3rd Grade Enhanced Teacher - Joanne Browley
- Math Intervention Teacher - Jim Gilroy
- Intervention Teacher - Susan Burrows
- Intervention Teacher - Amy Weidner
- 3rd Grade Immersion Teacher - Bego Muñoz
- 4th Grade ELA/Social Studies Teacher - Hope Willoe
- K/1 Immersion English Teacher - Keia Miller
- Literacy Support Lead Teacher - Pam Meacham
- Literacy Support/2nd & 3rd Immersion English Teacher - Lance Lukasiak
- Intervention Teacher - Jewel Madison
- Intervention Teacher - Claudia Dominguez
- Intervention Teacher - Adriana Marrero
- 1st Gr. Immersion Teacher - Amber Whitton
- Special Education Coordinator - Kaitlyn DeStefano

We are thrilled to welcome new staff members into the ICS family:

- 4th/5th Immersion Spanish Language Arts - Noel Straight
- 1st Gr. Immersion Teacher - Patricia Álvarez Rey
- 5th Gr. Math/Science (English) - Marilys Coratolo (returning to ICS)
- Therapist - Juanita Campbell
- 2nd Gr. Immersion Teacher - Alejandra Perez de Arenaza
- 5th grade Special Education - Nicole Dolente
- Spanish Immersion Classroom Assistant - Paola Sanchez
- Spanish Immersion Classroom Assistant - Waleska Rivera Amaro
- Spanish Immersion Classroom Assistant - Milgia Marrero

Please join us in welcoming all new staff to ICS!

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## Teacher Assignments

When teacher assignments are ready, we will send an email through Alma. You will be able to view your classroom/advisory teacher assignment in the Alma parent portal.