



APRIL, 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 10- Kindergarten Screening in Holy Apostles' Gymnasium (by apt)

April 22- Student Art Event (9am-12pm) in Holy Apostles' Parish Hall

April 24- St. Vincent's Kitchen Service Project (5-8pm)

May 1- HSA Meeting (6pm) in Parish Hall (parents only please)

July 30- School Dedication Ceremony

Aug 22- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!** (Note the changed date*)

*ANNOUNCEMENT! Because so many of our families will be traveling for or otherwise celebrating the big solar eclipse, our first day of school has been moved to August 22nd. We can't wait to start, but we want students to be able to experience this once in a lifetime event with their families. Enjoy this day and be ready to start a fantastic school year August 22nd!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

The last few weeks I have had many opportunities to spend time with educators and leaders from around the country. It is no surprise that highly individualized learning is sought after by educators everywhere and is not a priority that is exclusive to St. Ignatius. However, St. Ignatius is unique in that we have a profound opportunity to establish a set of instructional methods that enable this high individualization from the very start. Our academic design and strategies are concrete and tangible steps towards achieving a personalized education for each of our students.

As parents, we daily recognize the uniqueness of our children. Though we are all made in the image and likeness of God, we animate that image with our personalities and passions, our backgrounds and our interests, our strengths and our weaknesses. We already know that the first students of St. Ignatius Catholic School will bring an array of diverse vibrancy to our school. Ranging from age three to age fourteen, our students are coming from 59 different schools both in and out of the Treasure Valley. 33% of our students are coming from Catholic schools, 29% from West Ada School District, 19% from other surrounding districts, and 19% from local private schools. Some of our students are moving to Idaho from other states, and some have been homeschooled. While many of our students come from Holy Apostles parish, we also have students of different faith backgrounds. We are a colorful mix of backgrounds, ages, personalities, and interests.

To celebrate our individuality, we are hosting a special event for our first students. On April 22nd every enrolled student at St. Ignatius will have a unique opportunity to physically leave a lasting mark at our new school. Every student is invited to come to the parish Dining Hall to create a small mosaic that will later be incorporated into a larger art piece that will become a permanent part of St. Ignatius. The mosaics will represent our first students, and the many differences we have that together make our whole student body a true work of art. Please don't miss this event!

The uniqueness of every student truly makes our community a colorful mosaic that our faculty and staff will encounter daily. And while we are all one-of-a-kind, every child will pass through the doors of the school building on August 22nd united as a member of the St. Ignatius Catholic School family.

Only 20 weeks to go!

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

Academic Excellence • Faith Formation • Social Justice • Service • Strength of Community

Faculty: Troy Partin,
Teacher & Leadership
Team Member

Hometown: Buhl, ID

Education: Bachelor of
Science in Elementary
Education; Masters of
Educational Leadership;
University of Idaho.

Family: Troy has a
wonderful wife, Laura, and
two loving girls Zoey 10 and
Avery 7 who will be joining
us at St. Ignatius next year.

Hobbies: Camping, hiking,
hunting, or just working
outdoors with family and
friends.

FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET TEACHER & LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER, TROY PARTIN

Why did you become a teacher? *"I have always enjoyed working with others and learning from them. Teaching is not about having all the answers but creating experiences for students and teachers to learn together. There were also many teachers who pushed and challenged me with caring but firm expectations through all levels of my learning."*

What do you love about working in a school? *"A school community provides a team of adults and students who have a common goal. Creating opportunities for the success and development of students."*

How do you help students reach their highest potential? *"I involve students in their learning. I believe we must know where we are currently at and then set attainable goals to reach for. I want students to own their own learning, celebrate their achievements, and battle through the difficulties learning can present."*

What part of education are you most passionate about? *"I am most passionate about students becoming the owners of their learning. Teaching is not always standing in front and sharing facts and information but presenting opportunities to search for answers, finding success in activities that were challenging, and creating an environment for shared learning."*

HSA HIGHLIGHTS- HILLARY SMITH

It's hard to believe we are already in April and only four months away from the start of our first school year! The St. Ignatius Home and School Association (aka Parent Teacher Organization) has a number of ambitious objectives for our first school year and we want to hit the ground running. In order to accomplish our goals, we will need the support and involvement of every school family. Understandably, some families will be able to contribute more time than others but, ultimately, we are counting on the participation of every family to make our HSA (Home and School Association) a success.

I would like to invite all St. Ignatius parents to join Director of School Advancement, Jacqueline Kite-Powell, and me for a casual meet-and-greet to learn more about the HSA and to become better acquainted with your fellow St. Ignatius parents. Please join us for some light appetizers and drinks in the Holy Apostles Dining Room at 6:00pm on Monday, May 1st. An overview of our 2017-18 school year projects will be reviewed as well as information on how you can become involved. Please note that we currently have multiple positions available on the HSA Leadership team that we will be looking to fill in the next month. More information will be provided on these opportunities at the meet-and-greet on May 1st. I look forward to seeing everyone at this very important meeting.

Brightest Blessings,

Hillary Smith

St. Ignatius School, HSA President

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE! We have great new photos of our school as of March 20th. A huge shout out to our partners at Wright Bros. for managing to stay on target during this crazy Idaho winter. This doesn't even include the exciting things going on inside of the building! We can't wait to show everyone on July 30 at our School Dedication Ceremony/Open House! Mark your calendars!



INNOVATIONS IN LEARNING- INQUIRY BASED LEARNING

Inquiry-based learning is an instructional philosophy that employs certain teaching methods, lesson planning, and curricular techniques that will bring student curiosity and agency to the forefront of learning. In an inquiry-based classroom, teachers' primary activity is facilitating learning, rather than delivering content or prescriptively delineating skills. Elements of inquiry-based learning will infuse all subjects at St. Ignatius, but it will be the primary organizing principle in science, and will help bring to life the STEAM emphasis in the school's academic approach.

St. Ignatius' goals in adopting an inquiry-based approach are to:

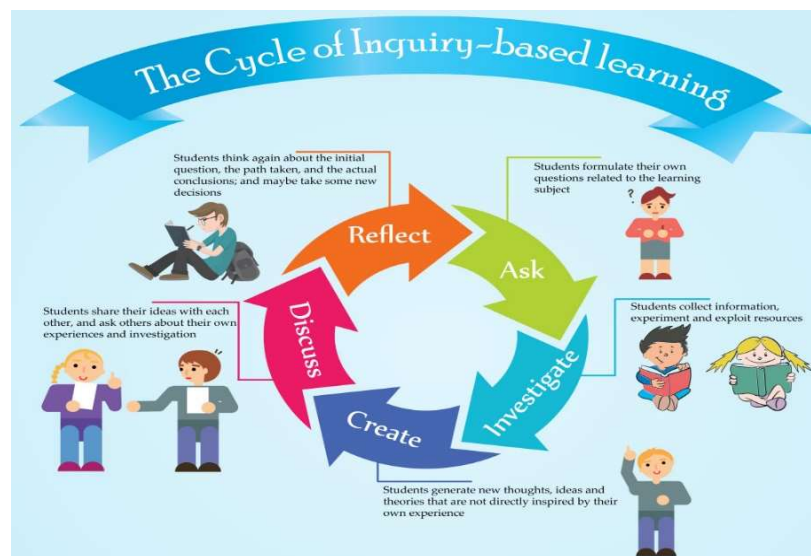
- Engage students in their learning process, and center each individual student in his or her own learning;
- Develop cross-disciplinary critical thinking skills, which students will be able to apply independently and in groups; and
- Provide extensive opportunities for collaboration and teamwork among students.

Science instruction at St. Ignatius will follow several trimester-long inquiry-based learning arcs. These inquiry-based learning arcs will be driven by student questions about the world around them and will facilitate extensive, collaborative work.

In an inquiry-based project, students follow a four step cycle:

1. **Explore** questions and topics,
2. **Investigate** questions and experiment with answers,
3. **Exhibit** what they have found or created, and
4. **Reflect** on their learning to guide their next projects.

In science, St. Ignatius will use an open inquiry model. In open inquiry, every step of the project, from the development of questions onwards, is student-driven. Teachers provide a grade appropriate level of structure, guidance and support along the way to facilitate student learning. Inquiry arcs will be aligned by trimester, and will include elements of community engagement in the exploration phase, and community service in the exhibition phase. This approach will infuse the Ignatian values of service to God and others through social justice into instruction. Students will not just explore any question that interests them – they will be asked to explain how answering that question will improve the world. Collaboration will be underlined at each stage of inquiry, and various team configurations will give students a chance to work collaboratively in mixed-ability groups.



THE 5 PILLARS OF OUR ACADEMIC DESIGN

The core pillars of St. Ignatius' academic model are five inter-related, innovative approaches that complement one another and combine to create an individualized, rigorous learning environment where every student is supported to grow and succeed across academic subjects.

The five pillars are:

1. **Station rotation blended learning** in math and English & language arts;
2. **Piloting multi-age classrooms with ability grouping**, where two grade levels are combined per classroom and students spend two years with each teacher, to be phased-in over time;
3. **Inquiry-based learning** in trimester-arcs for science/STEAM instruction, and infused across the curriculum;
4. **Individualized Learning Plans and student-led conferences** including multi-year and trimester academic and non-academic goals and progress metrics across grade levels; and
5. **Flexible learning spaces** which easily enable cross-class collaboration in addition to students' ability to care for their bodies at the same time as their minds.

Four of these five pillars will be fully implemented in St. Ignatius' first year, while multi-age classrooms will begin as a pilot program. While this is an ambitious approach with many elements that may be new to students and families, the leadership team at St. Ignatius is fully committed to investing the time, effort, and support necessary to clearly communicate and implement each pillar. The approaches mutually support and complement one another, all contributing to a personalized learning environment in which every student across the spectrum of gifts, skills, abilities, and preferences is supported to reach his or her full potential, in the classroom and beyond.

ST. VINCENT'S KITCHEN



For the past several months members of the St. Ignatius community have been helping St. Vincent's Kitchen once a month to host their "Evening Dinner Service" for families in need. It is inspiring to witness students dedicating time to others and committing themselves to their community.

St. Ignatius School will be hosting another dinner service for St. Vincent's Kitchen on April 24 from 5-8pm. If you are interested in participating, please email Sarah Doering (sdoering@gmail.com) for further details and to RSVP.



St. Ignatius Catholic School

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Connect with us!

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



We can't wait to start building the St. Ignatius Catholic School community! During the months leading up to the first day of school, we will be hosting events to allow families of the St. Ignatius community to get to know one another before we open our doors in August. We want every student at St. Ignatius to arrive on the first day of school to some familiar faces and new friends. We will offer a range of opportunities, so we are hopeful that each family will find something of interest and an event that will work for your schedule. We hope you will join us to start building the St. Ignatius family.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

STUDENT ART EVENT- APRIL 22- 9:00AM-12:00PM

The students joining us this August will always have a special place in the history of St. Ignatius Catholic School. To celebrate and memorialize the special role of these first-year students, we are asking that they participate in a special art project. K-8th grade enrolled students and their parents are invited to stop by the Parish Hall at Holy Apostles any time between 9:00am and 12:00pm on April 22nd to create an individual art piece that will be incorporated into a larger project that will be part of the school forever. The project will take less than a half hour to complete, so stop by anytime between 9:00am and 12:00pm.

We don't want to reveal too many details about this special project, but do not miss this event! This is a chance for every K-8 student enrolled for the opening year of St. Ignatius to leave their permanent mark on our school! We believe that this project will be a beautiful reflection of the community we hope to build together.

DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING

Mark you calendar!! The Dedication and Ribbon Cutting for St. Ignatius Catholic School will be July 30th! We hope all our families will be there to help us open the doors and celebrate our beautiful new school. More details to follow, but we wanted to get this on your calendar before your summer filled up! We are asking St. Ignatius students who will be entering 7th and 8th grade to help give tours and assist with the open house. Any 7th and 8th graders who are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Jacqueline Kite-Powell at jkitepowell@holypostles.net.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LITURGICAL MUSIC

Students who will be entering the St. Ignatius Middle School next August are invited to join our Liturgical Music program. We are starting our Liturgical Music program early so we will be ready for events this summer and can lead the music at our school Masses starting in August. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Alex Street at astreet@holypostles.net. (If you signed up at the Middle School Forum, no need to contact us again- we will be reaching out soon.)

St. Ignatius School Mission

St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.