



JULY, 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 6- Safe Environment Training (10am) and (7pm) at Holy Apostles (room TBD)

July 18/July 19- Uniform Try On Sessions (between 3pm-7pm) at Holy Apostles (Rooms 102/103)

July 24- Vincent's Kitchen Service Project for entering 7th grade students (5-8pm)

July 30- School Dedication and Open House

Aug 9- Parent Information Meeting (6pm)

Aug 16- Student school supply drop off and teacher meet and greet (anytime between 4-6:30)

Aug 22- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!**

Aug 23- Safe Environment Training (7pm) at Holy Apostles (room TBD)

*Growing leaders who turn
FAITH into ACTION.*

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

Excitement is intensifying as we await the Grand Opening of St. Ignatius Catholic School. In just a few weeks, the school building will be complete. As you gear up to attend the Dedication and Grand Opening on July 30th, here are five things to know about the new building:

1. **Building Specifications:** The building is 56,000 square feet. It's footprint spans one acre. There are 20 classrooms plus a science lab, library, music room (stage), and gym. Additionally, there are four flexible learning areas. One large playground to the east serves 1st-8th grade while a smaller playground behind the school is designated for preschool and Kindergarten. There is outdoor seating off the commons and an outdoor learning environment off of the science lab.
2. **Design:** The building was designed by CTA Architects. The innovative design specifically targets a modern learning environment where students are encouraged to move about and work collaboratively. Notice the angled ceilings and natural light throughout the building, both linked to increased academic performance and student satisfaction.
3. **Commons:** There's a reason we aren't calling it the cafeteria. The word "cafeteria" conjures up visions of sticky floors and messy tables. Although the St. Ignatius Commons will serve as our school lunch area, it is so much more. At the heart of the school, the commons area reminds us that the Eucharist is at the center of all we do. Good manners, friendly conversation, and healthy food will help emphasize the importance of family and community.
4. **Art:** Look out for a few surprises when you enter the building. The Catholic Church has a rich tradition of emphasizing visual art as a pathway to contemplating the divine. Our students will be surrounded daily by symbolic representations of faith.
5. **Crosses:** Each classroom is adorned with a handmade cross, crafted with love by a Holy Apostles' Parishioner. These crosses are just one more representation of the strength of community and the commitment of the parish to build a school for the families at Holy Apostles.

Each day that I put on my hard hat and see what new progress has been made on the new building, I am overcome with excitement. Yet, I'm reminded that a building is only a structure. The life and breath of St. Ignatius will come from the teachers, students, and families who walk our halls. I hope you feel that same excitement on July 30th when you see the building for the first time, and that it inspires you to continue your love and support for the culture and spirit we will create this coming school year.

Sincerely, Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

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

Faculty: Rebecca Dunn, 1st Grade Teacher

Hometown: Boise, Id

Background: Mrs. Dunn graduated from Borah High School in 2005. She graduated from Boise State with an undergraduate degree in elementary education in 2010, and then received a Master's in Literacy with a writing emphasis soon after. She has attended several trainings on technology, inquiry, project based learning and formative assessment. Currently, she is seeking a certificate as a Google Educator.

FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET 1ST GRADE TEACHER, REBECCA DUNN

What do you love about working in a school? *"I love seeing how kids' faces light up with joy, energy, excitement and wonder! It amazes me on a daily basis how kids communicate, collaborate and problem solve. I love watching this process and feel blessed to be a part of their learning."*

What is something you do to make your students feel special? *"I like to have students help with deciding what our "classroom promises" are. These are things we promise to each other each day. It might be to always use kind words, have fun, show respect, etc. This way students understand that the classroom is just as much as part of theirs as their teachers. I also use their own pictures, art and class work to decorate our classroom."*

How do you help students reach their highest potential? *"I think goal setting and tracking is helpful to kids (as well as adults) to see where they started and to have a visual reminder of how far they have come. It's never about everyone ending at the same point at the same time; it's about everyone getting what they need to make the most progress they can."*

What is something that may surprise people about you? *"I love being around kids and have never been afraid to be my goofy, silly self. I ran assemblies at my previous school full of dancing, singing, and skits. Once I dressed up as a surgeon for a lesson and another time as a drill sergeant! I also like to celebrate kid's success in the classroom by dancing and singing on tables."*



Our 4th and 5th graders had a wonderful time getting to know one another and helping those in need at St. Vincent's Kitchen "Evening Dinner Service" for families in need. This was an engaged and enthusiastic group of workers. We challenge incoming 7th graders to bring a similar enthusiasm to the task on July 24th from 5-8pm. If you are interested in participating, please email Sarah Doering (scdoering@gmail.com) for further details and to RSVP, or sign up at <http://signup.com/go/VuKyJru>.

HSA UPDATES-

Our awesome HSA is up and running! To stay up to date with HSA check out the HSA tab on our website at www.stignatiusmeridian.net/hsa which includes the HSA calendar of events and our link for volunteer sign-ups.

- Parents can now use the SignUp.com website to search and signup for volunteer opportunities at the school! Our St. Ignatius Volunteer Group page can be found by following this link: <http://signup.com/go/uIVzNEen>. Parents are encouraged to regularly check this website for new and updated volunteer opportunities. Any questions regarding the HSA volunteer program should be directed to the HSA Volunteer Coordinator, Cindi Marcotte (volunteer@stignatiusmeridian.org). Note, if you signed up to help with an event at our first HSA meeting, you do not need to sign up again on the website!
- St. Ignatius HSA has a number of exciting events planned for the summer to help start building our community! Please check the HAS calendar on our website so that you don't miss these fun events! Any questions regarding these activities can be directed to our Welcoming & Hospitality Committee Co-Chair, Trinity Emineth at trinity.emineth@yahoo.com.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

All adults who will interact with students at St. Ignatius need to complete the Safe Environment training program required by the Diocese. In addition, you must renew your Safe Environment class online each year. The first time you take the Safe Environment training, it must be completed in-person. After that, you may renew each year online. We hope/anticipate that at some point all parents will be interacting with students in some capacity, so we recommend that all parents complete/update their training prior to the beginning of the school year. For more information on SE Training and upcoming sessions, visit our website at <http://www.stignatiusmeridian.net/safe-environment>.



The St. Ignatius facility was designed to enable flexibility within the school for students and teachers to be mobile rather than being constrained by four static walls. Each classroom has a “garage door” fourth wall that opens to a shared “pod” space. This space can be used by one class when more space is needed, or across classrooms when they are collaborating. This design flexibility is especially important for ability grouping, station rotation, and makerspace activities which may require more space for interaction, experimentation, and exploration. This facility will enable easy movement of students among the classrooms, and will enable use of the pod space for learning as well.

In addition to a building that fosters flexible learning environments, the furniture throughout the building enhances this goal for flexibility. Specifically, student seating will foster frequent movement and collaboration. All of the classrooms offer a mix of moveable desks, standing and sitting height tables, plush seating, and wobble stools. The middle school classrooms have furniture relevant to the subject area. For example, there is a presentation room designed for students to display their work proudly to peers and a math room with white board tops on all of the surfaces and many of the walls.



The building design also features two outdoor learning environments. Both the library and STEAM lab feature overhead doors that open to a secure outdoor area with tables and outdoor furniture. These rooms offer the ability to extend the learning environment seamlessly to the outdoors. The pleasant temperatures and plentiful sunshine in the fall and spring seasons in the Treasure Valley make these flexible environments ideal.

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.

UNIFORMS-

We just want to remind everyone that the specifics of our uniform policy can be found on our website at <http://www.stignatiusmeridian.net/Uniforms>.

Don't forget:

-Our uniform provider is SchoolBelles. They must provide all polo shirts, white dress shirts, ties, sweaters, jumpers and plaid skirts. All of these can be ordered from their website www.schoolbelles.com using Code: S2726. They are currently having a sale of 20% off if you order by July 15th! We cannot provide our logo to be used with other vendors.

-Pants, shorts, and PE shorts can be, but do not need to be, ordered from our uniform provider—they can be purchased anywhere.

-Pre-K t-shirts, PE shirts, and any spirit gear will be purchased from the school office once we open in August.

-All Pre-K students are asked to order one embroidered polo shirt from our uniform provider which will be worn on special occasions.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We can't wait to start building the St. Ignatius Catholic School community! We want every student at St. Ignatius to arrive on the first day of school to some familiar faces and new friends. We hope you will join us to start building the St. Ignatius family.

UNIFORM TRY-ONS-

The HSA will be hosting two uniform try on sessions in July. Stop by on Tues 7/18 or Weds 7/19 between 3-7pm in classrooms 102/103 at Holy Apostles. We have samples of school skirts, jumpers, polos, dress shirts, and sweaters in various styles and sizes. Students must be accompanied by a parent for this event. It is recommended that students wear an undershirt and gym/bike shorts (girls) for ease of trying on the uniform items. The purpose of the two sessions we have scheduled is only to let the students try on the various uniform staples to determine the appropriate sizes needed. It is still the responsibility of the parents to order uniforms through the Schoolbelles website.

SCHOOL DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE- JULY 30

The St. Ignatius Catholic School Dedication and Open House will be July 30th. We will celebrate Mass at 11am, immediately followed by the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony (at 12:30). The school will then be open to all for tours and a reception. We are so excited for all of you to see the new school and share in this important celebration, and we encourage all of you to attend! Overflow parking will be available at Heritage Middle School located at 4990 N Meridian Rd (S of Chinden). A trolley will be available to transport from Heritage to Holy Apostles. Please consider using this parking if you are able.

ALSO- we are in need of Altar Servers for this Mass. If you have a student who has been trained as an Altar Server at Holy Apostles and is willing to serve at this important celebration Mass, please email jkitepowell@stignatiusmeridian.org.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING- AUG 9

Mark your calendars! We will be having a parent informational meeting on August 9th at 6pm in the School Commons Area of the new, beautiful school! We intend to cover all the logistics of being a Gray Wolf parent at this meeting— school drop off and pick up procedures, before and after school care policy and procedure, lunch program logistics, safety procedures and instructions, class schedules and class lists.

STUDENT SUPPLY DROP-OFF/TEACHER MEET & GREET- AUG 16

On August 16 (anytime between 4-6:30), students are invited to stop by their classrooms to drop off their school supplies and meet their teacher. This is a great chance for your student to shake off some of those new school nerves, see their classroom and meet their new teacher. Class lists will be provided prior to this date so you will know where to take your students. School supply lists will be sent by email later this summer. This is not intended to be time for individual student conferencing—but, rather, a casual opportunity for students to meet with their teachers. If you need to set up time to speak with your child's teacher individually, please contact them to schedule a meeting.

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.