



*Growing leaders who turn
FAITH into ACTION.*

JUNE, 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 6- Sentinel Team Meeting (8th grade) (4-5pm) in the Parish Hall

June 26 - St. Vincent's Kitchen Service Project for entering 6th grade students (5-8pm)

June 14- Safe Environment Training (7pm) at Holy Apostles (room TBD)

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

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

July 30- School Dedication and Open House

Aug 9- Parent Information Meeting (6pm)

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

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

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

A year ago we were shoveling dirt. Then we poured concrete. Next came the walls, the pipes, the roof. It's hard to believe that we've arrived to the final stage of the building project: paint, carpet, furniture and the final touches. We are almost done.

Last month, our school board members were given a special sneak-peek tour of the school. My favorite thing to do when touring with people who are seeing the building for the first time is to watch their faces as they walk into the large commons area and begin to take in what you can only see from the inside- the classrooms, flex areas, overhead doors, the cabinets and carpet, the scoreboards and hoops in the gym, and so much more. There is a wide-eyed "wow" that floats around in the wide spaces and natural light. You would never guess, from the visible outside progress, how far along the interior of the building has come.

Our new teachers will have a building tour later this month when we gather for a week of professional development and team-building. Seeing the empty spaces and envisioning them coming to life with students is profoundly inspiring. There is something about that blank canvas that proclaims invitingly, "anything is possible!"

The ten teachers who have so far been hired share in this creative spirit. Truly, anything is possible. Although these teachers are coming off of a busy school year, they will sacrifice much of their summer to help get the new school off the ground. Like all of us parents, staff, and parishioners, they come with fervent energy and excitement at the opportunity to be a part of this project. And like all of us, they know that this first year will be full of hard work and challenges.

Attached to the Howl this month are short bios for both our new teachers and our school board members. I ask you to pray for these individuals as we work this summer to build relationships and community, and set a solid foundation for the learning that will happen at St. Ignatius.

I wish all our students a happy summer. Enjoy the sunshine and the beauty of God's creation all around. I look forward to next month at our School Dedication and Open House, when I can watch the "wow" spread across the faces of our families and students.

Sincerely,

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

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

Faculty: Jacqueline Kite-Powell, Director of School and Parish Advancement

Hometown: Boise, Id

Background: Mrs. Kite-Powell received a BS in Psychology from University of Idaho and a JD from the University of Notre Dame. She has spent the last 15 years practicing law at Dentons US LLP in secured finance.

Family: Mrs. Kite-Powell and her husband Geoff live in Boise with a packed house of 4 wonderful children, ages 4-11.

FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL AND PARISH ADVANCEMENT, JACQUELINE KITE-POWELL

What part of St. Ignatius inspires you? *"I love that St. Ignatius is so committed to community—the school community, the Holy Apostles community and the community at large. Enveloping students in a community gives them roots, and that grounding gives them the courage to discover and grow. A strong community provides children with a support system and gives them a sense of purpose and accountability. In our modern world, I think we have started to overlook the importance of community and how we need to embrace the things that bind us together and support us."*

What made you move from the practice of law to a school? *"I am so passionate about Catholic education. I am a product of Catholic school and my children attend Catholic school. Every day I witness the many ways that Catholic schools change lives. Catholic educators are helping grow compassionate, educated, well rounded citizens. My job at St. Ignatius is to shine a light on all of the amazing things that are happening at our school. People need to know the many ways that teachers are constantly inspiring and growing the leaders of tomorrow, and the remarkable things students are doing in and for their community."*

What is your favorite way to spend the weekend? *"My favorite weekends are those spent with my crazy brood at our cabin in Donnelly. We love hiking, snow skiing and water skiing....but mostly we love to just sit around and waste the days away digging holes in the sand by the lake, building snow forts and making 'smores by the campfire. Great family memories!"*

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL- UNIFORMS



Goal of Uniform Policy:

At St. Ignatius, we are committed to creating a culture of unity, where students can learn without distraction to reach their highest potential.

Additional Goals-

- Students are encouraged to stand out with actions, not appearance;
- Provides ease for families and students; and
- Helps students feel proud of their own appearance and their school.

- It is hard to believe that it is already time to start ordering uniforms-- but it is sneaking up on us quickly! 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>. We also wanted to touch base about a couple of frequently asked questions:
- 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. We encourage you to set up a log in and profile for easy access and ordering. They are currently having a sale of 20% off if you order by July 15th! We also will be posting any sale information or coupons they send to us on our facebook page. 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.
- We appreciate that uniform costs will be substantial in your first year. Please know that we intend to have used uniform sales and exchanges in the years ahead which will keep costs down substantially for our families.

UPCOMING- AUG 9, PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

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.

Our hope is to give parents and faculty a moment to regroup and address final questions before we begin this exciting year together. We hope that all parents can attend this meeting, but will also have this information available for distribution if you cannot attend.

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING PLAN

Research on individualized learning plans suggests strong evidence of their non-academic benefits for student engagement in school, student self-knowledge of strengths and areas for development, increased teacher awareness of student individual performance to enable individualized learning, and improved family engagement and communication. There is also some evidence that Individualized Learning Plans can have a concrete impact on academic achievement levels.

The design concept of St. Ignatius' ILP has 3 main sections:

1. Cura Personalis: This section is intended to evaluate long-term intellectual, physical, and spiritual/emotional goals. Students will have two-year goals supported by an action plan for achieving these goals. The goals and action plan will be developed by the student with teacher support. There will be space for student reflection regarding progress on goals, supported by a portfolio of evidence.
2. Academic Progress Report: This section will document academic subject-specific goals and progress. For each subject area, the student will have an annual growth goal based on the student's current standardized test result and interim assessment results from instructional software. Teachers and students will create specific action steps for the students to achieve their growth goals.
3. Gradebook: The gradebook will compile student summative performance on a 5-point scale for each course/subject and trimester. This will be an at-a-glance, summary review of student academic performance, as determined by a teacher review of their work products against St. Ignatius' standards for academic progress.

Having multiple measures of success and multiple opportunities to acquire and demonstrate skills and knowledge is an important tenet of the grading philosophy at St. Ignatius. Challenges with behavior and responsibility will be incorporated into the ILP and addressed appropriately, but they will not impact student academic grades. This way, grades in academic content areas will accurately reflect student knowledge and skills, not classroom behavior or accountability. Those components will be valued and discussed as separate, equally important areas for student growth.

Student-Led Conferences

Student-led conferences are an increasingly popular alternative to traditional parent-teacher conferences. In a student-led conference, students present their goals, progress, strengths, and areas for improvement to their families and their teacher, and the group has a discussion. While these conferences will only occur a few times per year, they will reinforce the ILPs and bring them to life.

Research on student-led teacher conferences shows increased satisfaction with this model over more traditional models where teachers talk about students with parents. The student-led conference model presents a valuable opportunity to reinforce St. Ignatius' core academic and non-academic values, and build strong relationships between teachers, students, and families.

Conferences at St. Ignatius will be entirely student-led and closely tied to the structure and content of the student's ILP. The specific model of the presentation will vary somewhat by grade level, but even the youngest students will be able to discuss their goals and progress with their parents. Each homeroom teacher will facilitate the conference and help students prepare. Other teachers will be invited to attend as needed. Conferences will be held face-to-face at least once per year, at the end of first trimester. Digital options for student self-reporting will be explored for second and third trimester conferences.

In the process of preparing for the conference, students be encouraged to think deeply about each aspect of their ILP and decide how to discuss their goals and progress with their families and teacher. Families will have an opportunity to hear and understand more from their own child, with help and support from the teacher.

Outside of student-led conferences, families will be encouraged to communicate with their child's teacher formally and informally. Under no circumstances should conferences be the only opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss student learning goals.

This is a lot of work for students and teachers, but it will be worth it!

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;
2. Multi-age classrooms with ability grouping;
3. Inquiry-based learning;
4. Individualized Learning Plans and student-led conferences; and
5. Flexible learning spaces.

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING PLANS AND STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

To further support the whole student approach to St. Ignatius' educational philosophy and the individualized approach to student instruction, each St. Ignatius student will have an individualized learning plan, updated each trimester, and maintained over the long term as a record of growth. The ILP will be reviewed and discussed at student-led conferences, where students, teachers, and parents will evaluate student goals and progress in depth.

St Ignatius' goals with Individualized Learning Plans and student led conferences are to:

- Support individualized learning by providing teachers, families, and students with a clear roadmap for students' development goals and learning styles; and,
- Allow students to take accountability for their own learning, performance and behavior in school, and think deeply about their own goals, academic and otherwise; and,
- Elevate the importance of character values alongside academic content knowledge, while providing meaningful and targeted feedback in each realm; and,
- Improve student presentation and communication skills and effectively communicate progress to parents about students' goals, strengths, and areas for improvement within and beyond academics.

UPCOMING FOR STUDENTS-

8TH GRADE SENTINEL TEAM

We had two meetings with our entering 8th graders in May. These 8th grade students will act as our first "Sentinel Team". This team will lead student programs at St. Ignatius. Thus far, the team has come up with activities for our first week of school and planned the school's family and buddy system. Our first Sentinel Team has great ideas that will soon be brought to life at St. Ignatius. Our next meeting will be June 6th from 4-5pm in the Parish Hall. All 8th graders are encouraged to attend.

6TH GRADE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Students who will be entering 6th grade at St. Ignatius next August are invited to help host the St. Vincent's Kitchen "Evening Dinner Service" for families in need on June 26th from 5-8pm. If you are interested in participating, please email Sarah Doering (scdoering@gmail.com) for further details and to RSVP. We are hopeful that this will be a great opportunity for these students and their families to get to know one another while helping those in need.

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208-888-4759
www.stignatiusmeridian.net

Connect with us!

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/stignatiuscatholic-school/

Twitter: @stignatiusid

Instagram: st.ignatiusmeridian

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

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-- either as a classroom helper, a field trip driver, a coach or in some other volunteer capacity-- so we recommend that all parents complete/update their training prior to the beginning of the school year.

If you have already completed this training, please email Janelle McIntyre (info@stignatiusmeridian.org) to advise her of when you took the training and for which parish or school (so that we can get confirmation from your former school/parish). You will then need to simply renew your training online. The instructions for online renewal are attached. The online course takes about 1-hour to complete.

For those parents who have never completed the training and paid the fees required for this training during the registration process, you simply need to attend one of our training sessions listed below. The Diocese will then take care of contacting us to confirm your attendance and completion of your background check. If there are parents, grandparents, step-parents, etc. that intend to volunteer at our school but did not pay the fee during registration, these individuals should send the \$30 registration fee to the school office and then they too can attend one of our training sessions listed below. We will be offering 5 training sessions this summer: Wednesday, June 14 at 7pm; Thursday, July 6 at 10am and 7pm; August 23 & 24 at 7pm. All will be held at Holy Apostles (room TBD). Please email info@stignatiusmeridian.org to RSVP for one of these sessions.

SCHOOL DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE

We are still looking for St. Ignatius students who will be entering 7th and 8th grade to help give tours and assist with the St. Ignatius Catholic School Dedication and Open House will be July 30th. We will also be looking for parent volunteers to help us on this important day as well. To volunteer, please sign up at the following sites: <http://signup.com/go/d5UQSG> (students) and <http://signup.com/go/TyP3hC> (parents). Note that volunteers will get an early sneak peek tour of the new school!

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.