



*Growing leaders who turn
FAITH into ACTION.*

MARCH, 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 27- St. Vincent's Kitchen Service Project (5-8pm)

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)

July 30- School Dedication Ceremony

Aug 21- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!**

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

This month, I am pleased and excited to introduce all of you to the St. Ignatius Leadership Team.

During the remainder of our planning year and throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, this leadership team will help bring to life the five components of our academic design, help develop school wide curriculum and programs, and assist me in forming school policies and procedures. This initial leadership team will be comprised of myself, Andrea Zambukos (the Support Services Coordinator), and two dynamic and experienced teachers, Trina King and Troy Partin. I can't wait for you all to meet these fabulous educators.

The idea of shared leadership is important to the mission at St. Ignatius Catholic School. As firm believers in the uniqueness of each individual, we recognize that we are stronger when we combine our strengths. Like St. Paul says in his analogy of the body of Christ- we are many parts, but the same body. So, too, this metaphor describes the idea of shared leadership. We all bring different gifts, experiences and passions to the table, and this makes us stronger. Furthermore, leadership is not limited to the Leadership Team. We anticipate that all of our future teachers and staff members will be leaders in their particular areas of strength.

This is, after all, the same goal we have for our students. Our slogan, "Growing leaders who turn faith into action" implies that we are all called to be leaders. As followers of Christ, this is the expectation. Leaders come in many shapes and forms, but we are all leading one another to the same place- closer to Christ.

As the principal, my role is still to oversee all things regarding St. Ignatius Catholic School, but the leadership team will provide backup, assistance, and support in the never-ending job of running a school. Attached to this newsletter correspondence is a description of our leadership team with a short biography of each member. I invite you to learn more about our leadership team members and join me with excitement in welcoming on board the newest members of the St. Ignatius Catholic School faculty.

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

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

Faculty: Trina King, Teacher & Leadership Team Member

Hometown: Grand View, ID

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education and an emphasis in Reading Education; Boise State University. Standard Catechist Certificate; Gonzaga University.

Family: Trina is blessed with a house full of wild and crazy boys! She and her husband, Jake, met 17 years ago and were married in June 2008. She has two young sons, Ace and Avery Jones, who will be joining her at St. Ignatius next year. She reports a life filled with Legos, superheroes, a million and one questions, constant movement, and lots of silliness.

FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET TEACHER & LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER, TRINA KING

What parts of St. Ignatius are you most passionate about? *"For me, it is the excitement of helping to open a new school! We have a blank canvas and an amazing opportunity to open our doors with not only the knowledge, experience and passion that we all bring to the table, but also the latest innovative teaching models. I get to take what I have learned and implement new ways to inspire the amazing children that will soon fill our new school. I can't wait!"*

What part of education are you most passionate about? *"Reading is my passion! There is nothing like watching a child learn to read. The excitement witnessed in the "ah-ha" moment when a child looks at the words on the page and can truly read is genuinely amazing. Reading opens the door to a lifetime of adventures and having the opportunity to help children find this passion, is one I truly treasure."*

Why did you become a teacher? *"My decision to become a teacher came when my youngest brother was born. He was diagnosed with Asperger's in preschool, and after years of watching him struggle with teachers and peers who did not understand him or his challenges, I knew I had to be part of the solution. My brother taught me the importance of routine, consistency and compassion in a classroom. I am thankful God gave me the opportunity to learn and grow with my brother and that I am able to share these priceless lessons with my students."*

What is something that people might not know about you? *"I have worked as a certified Group Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer for nearly 20 years and currently teach Strength, Kickboxing and Pilates at a local gym."*

What is something that may surprise people about you? *"I was blessed with the opportunity to spend Holy Week in Italy in 2005. My husband and I were at St. Peter's Basilica for the Palm Sunday Mass where we were given a blessing by Pope John Paul II, which was his last public blessing for the masses."*

HSA HIGHLIGHTS- HILLARY SMITH

Thank you to all who supported our 1st Annual St. Ignatius School Dinner Auction, Be the Spark, on February 4th. Over 300 parents, parishioners, and friends of St. Ignatius Catholic School filled the church gym and dining room with enthusiasm and excitement.

The event was a terrific success! Our special guest emcee, Larry Gebert, kept the energy going all evening long. The food was delicious, our venue was transformed into a maroon and gold sparkling wonderland, and the dancefloor was rockin' thanks to DJ Michael Hroma. Both our live and silent auctions were a huge success-every item on our auction block sold! From the custom etched St. Ignatius wine glasses to the gorgeous, custom candle and floral centerpieces-- every detail was perfect. While we don't yet have our final fundraising results, we do know that we exceeded our goal. Stay tuned for more information on how much we raised to support our tuition assistance fund.

Most importantly, I want to thank the over 150 volunteers who came together to make this event a success. We are so incredibly blessed to have had such an outpouring of support with so many people generously sharing their time. A special thank you to Karen Mahoney who was at the helm, ensuring all of the many details and components to producing an event like this were covered. To our committee chairs who worked for countless hours...thank you! Be the Spark could not have happened without all of you.

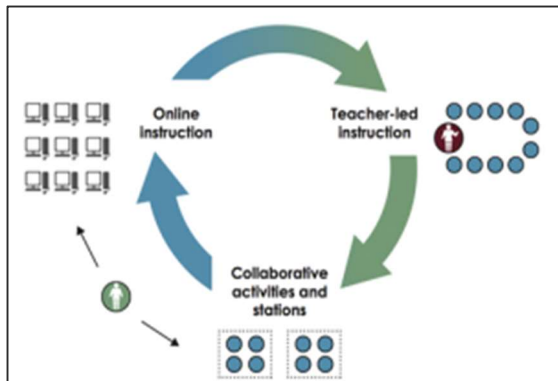
A special thank you also to the hundreds of generous donors and sponsors. Your donation to this event will now allow boys and girls to attend St. Ignatius School who otherwise would not have been able to.

Thank you again, to everyone who supported this event. Your generosity today will become a legacy for tomorrow.

Hillary Smith
St. Ignatius School, HSA President



INNOVATIONS IN LEARNING- STATION ROTATION & BLENDED LEARNING



St. Ignatius will use station rotation and blended learning as the foundation of lesson planning in math and English and language arts (ELA). Station rotation is a classroom design model in which students in small, ability-differentiated

groups rotate through various classroom activities, including a technology-enabled blended learning activity. This type of instruction allows us to:

- Tailor instruction to students' individual needs, supported by teachers in a small-group setting;
- Respect differences in students' learning styles by providing opportunities to learn a skill or subject via different modalities and activities;
- Create structures to enable effective ability grouping across age levels and between classrooms; and,
- Foster a more engaging classroom environment by dividing an instructional block into multiple, dynamic activity blocks.

St. Ignatius has a clear vision of how station rotation will be implemented in ELA and math instruction throughout the school. Our rotation model will include 3-4 activity stations, 1 teacher-led, 1 technology-enabled, and 1-2 collaborative stations, in 60-90 minute blocks. Students will be grouped according to their ability in the subject and skills being taught, and groups will change dynamically throughout the year.

At the middle school level, St. Ignatius envisions more independent work opportunities for students and flexibility for teachers to experiment with what models work best for achieving student growth goals. Elements of student choice and agency will be integrated into station rotation, for example, by offering multiple choices of collaborative activities.

Blended learning will be facilitated by adaptive learning software. A 2015 study by the Rand Corporation and the Gates Foundation found that technology-enabled personalized learning approaches have a significant positive impact on student academic achievement, especially in elementary school math.

At the end of an instructional block of station rotation, teachers will have a wealth of information to inform their assessment of each student's work and progress, and shape plans for groups and activities in the next lesson. First, they will have their own observations from working closely with every individual student in small groups. Second, they will be able to review the work products from the collaborative activities. Finally, teachers will have detailed data and progress reports from the blended learning software.

As students and teachers become comfortable and adept at the logistics of station rotation and blended learning, new kinds of innovative lesson planning and teacher collaboration will be possible. This innovative model is critical to creating an individualized, rigorous academic experience for our students and pushing them to reach their highest learning potential.

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.

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. The first students at St. Ignatius will help establish traditions and create school culture. We want these students to understand how important and special they are within the St. Ignatius Catholic School community!

To celebrate and memorialize the special roll 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 we believe that it will be a beautiful reflection of the community we hope to build together.

St. Ignatius Catholic School

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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.

RECENT EVENT-

ST. VINCENT'S KITCHEN

On February 27, members of the St. Ignatius community helped prepare, serve and clean up for an "Evening Dinner Service" for families in need at St. Vincent's Kitchen in Boise. Thank you to the families who helped make this evening a success.

St. Ignatius School will be hosting another dinner service for St. Vincent's Kitchen on Monday, March 27 from 5-8pm. If you are interested in participating, please email Sarah Doering (scdoering@gmail.com) for further details and to RSVP. Again, this is a great opportunity to serve others, spend important time as a family, and to get acquainted with other families enrolled at St. Ignatius.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FORUM

On February 22, we hosted our second Middle School Forum. It was another packed house! Middle school students shared their thoughts about the Middle School and their ideas about school traditions and culture. We are thrilled that so many of our middle school students were willing to participate and help us grow our vision for St. Ignatius Middle School. They shared insights that we value, including choosing our playground equipment. Please let your students know that Playground B was the winner!



Kindergarten

KINDERGARTENERS! All students who will be entering kindergarten at St. Ignatius this August will be required to participate in a Kindergarten screening session to take place on April 10th in the Holy Apostles' Gymnasium. You will be receiving an email from us with more information about the screening and to sign up for a specific screening time.

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.