



*Growing leaders who turn  
FAITH into ACTION.*

## MAY, 2017

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 1- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Leadership Team Meeting (4:30-5:30pm) in Parish Hall
- May 1- HSA Meeting (6pm) in Parish Hall (parents only please)
- May 22- St. Vincent's Kitchen Service Project for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade students (5-8pm)
- 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!!!**
- Sep- 20- Back to School Night (6pm)

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

While students and educators around our region count down to the ending of the 2016-2017 school year, the staff and faculty at St. Ignatius are gearing up for the start of next year. With less than four months to our first day of school, we are moving at a fast and furious pace.

I'm pleased to announce that St. Ignatius Catholic School has a staff of sixteen and continues growing. Our new administrative assistant, Mrs. McIntyre is now one of five employees officially working at the school. Plus, an additional eleven faculty members are committed to starting work this coming June. By August, our entire school faculty and staff should number about 25 full-time employees.

As I marvel at these educators who will greet our students each day, I'm reminded that it is only one piece of the equation. The truth is that it takes a whole village.

St. Ignatius wouldn't be anywhere without the amazing volunteers who dedicate time and talent to the school. Parishioners and parents have already put in countless hours to help bring our school to life. These volunteers have served on committees, helped with the auction, coached our first t-ball teams, served on the school board, offered advice and assistance with policy, procedures, and curriculum development, and so much more. We would not be where we are without the help and service of our community. Thank you!

One of the most appealing aspects of a Catholic education is the strength of community. We recognize that we are raising our children together- as a village. Research shows that parental involvement in their child's school directly correlates to student success, but we don't need those statistics to prove that community is important. We know it because God calls us to see Christ in one another. We know it because we feel fulfilled when we give to a cause outside of ourselves. We know it because we thrive in community with one another.

We encourage you to help us build this wonderful community where our children will grow and thrive, and we thank you for your dedication of time, talent and treasure as we continue to build St. Ignatius Catholic School.

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

**Faculty:** Janelle McIntyre,  
Administrative Assistant

**Hometown:** Yorba Linda,  
California

**Background:** Mrs. McIntyre has over 10+ years of experience in Office Management and Business Ownership. She has acted as a personal assistant, receptionist, and customer service expert.

**Family:** Mrs. McIntyre, her husband, Walt, and her son, Ethan, moved to Boise in 2013 after spending many summers travelling in an RV with their two Rottweilers and searching for a place to call home. They fell in love with the Boise / Eagle area.

## FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, JANELLE MCINTYRE

**What parts of St. Ignatius are you most passionate about?** *“Over the years, I have enjoyed volunteering at our son’s schools, I have watched the children with their personal transformation of being in a Catholic School environment. I look forward to watching the new students of St. Ignatius grow in their faith, serve in our community, and realize their own potential as individuals.”*

**What part of working in a school are you most looking forward to?** *“I will be one of the staff who will be greeting the children and their families on a daily basis. I know all of the families are excited to start the first school year. I look forward to getting to know each family and to helping in any way that I can to provide them with the best experience at St. Ignatius Catholic School.”*

**What is something that people might not know about you?** *“I lived with my husband Walt in South Africa for over 5 years. We watched Nelson Mandela leave office in '99, and the country continue to change after apartheid. We owned and ran an independent security contract with the US government and had over 300 South African employees from more than 10 different tribes. We had the opportunity to travel all over South Africa, and went on several safaris. We helped local school children to raise money and grow their first garden which fed the children all of their meals each day.”*

## RECENT EVENTS- STUDENT ART PROJECT



In April, St. Ignatius students were asked to participate in a school wide art event. Each K-8 student created their own unique and individualized fish mosaic. We had a wonderful turn out and the kids were creative and hard working. Each fish was distinctive and one of a kind—just like each of our students.

Each of these fish will be incorporated into a larger art piece that will become a permanent part of St. Ignatius. The mosaic will represent our first students, and their many differences that together make our whole student body a true work of art.

Our hope is that this mosaic will remind all the parents, staff and students that pass through our halls every day that while we are all one-of-a-kind, we are united as members of the St. Ignatius Catholic School family.



## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Earlier this month, we were honored to host our Bishop, the Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen, his staff, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Jim Reed. We toured the school, enjoyed lunch and shared the many exciting things happening at St. Ignatius. We can't wait to show the rest of our community our beautiful new school at the St. Ignatius Catholic School Dedication and Open House on July 30th!



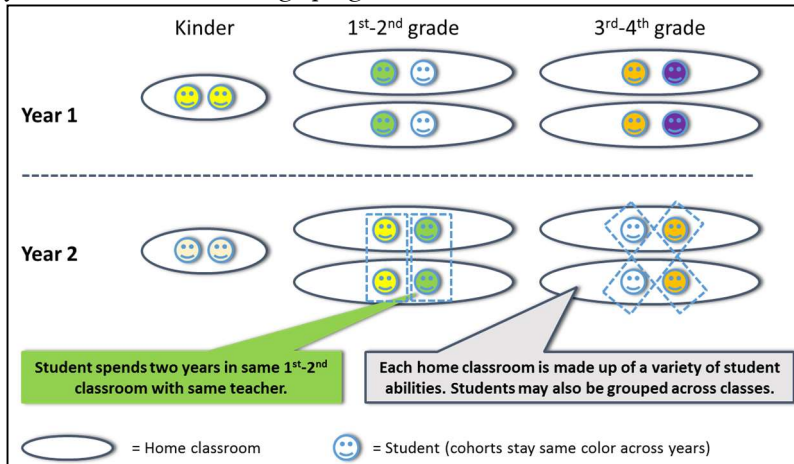
## INNOVATIONS IN LEARNING- MULTI-AGE CLASSROOMS WITH ABILITY GROUPING

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In our first year at St. Ignatius, students in several of the grade levels will be assigned to multi-age, mixed-grade classrooms. This will be a pilot program in the school's first year (with only a couple of grades participating), but is anticipated to grow throughout the school over three to five years.

In the multi-age program, students from two grades (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades) are combined in one class. In this multi-age classroom setting, teachers are not teaching two grades in parallel, but they are teaching one group of students, with a variety of skills, talents and ability levels across subjects. Within ability-grouped activities such as station rotation, students will be mixed across ages, according to their skill level. This structure enables students who are behind to get extra support, and students who are ahead of grade level to reach even further ahead and learn from similar ability peers.

Students in the multi-age program will also have the benefit of teacher "looping". Looping is a method in which a teacher will stay with each same-age set of students (from their multi-age class) for a two-year period, giving students and teachers an opportunity to build a much stronger relationship and understanding of one another. The graphic below visualizes the movement of cohorts of students between year 1 and year 2 within the multi-age program.



The leadership team of St. Ignatius has many goals for piloting this approach, including to:

- Enable more differentiated instruction through ability groups, increasing teachers' focus on each individual student's learning progression instead of grade-level labels;
- Foster a "family" style learning environment in which older students set an example for younger students, who naturally look up to and emulate them;
- Reduce instructional time used to lay out procedures and processes, since older students in two-grade classroom will model appropriate behavior for younger students;
- Give teachers two years to understand and teach to the individual needs of their students and build relationships with families; and,
- Encourage collaborative lesson planning and use of space among teachers.

The two-grade, multi-age classrooms at St. Ignatius will be piloted in classrooms where teachers are experienced in multi-grade instruction, and/or with teachers who are eager to pilot this approach. This program will not increase the total number of classrooms or class size, it will only change the composition of student ages and cohorts within each classroom.

## 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.

## HSA HIGHLIGHTS- HILLARY SMITH

Dear Parents,

There is no greater joy than that which we get from volunteering. Okay, maybe that's a stretch but there really is a special satisfaction that comes from sharing your talents and skills and giving your time!

At our HSA Meet and Greet earlier this month, we reviewed both the leadership opportunities available on the HSA Board, as well as many other volunteer roles that we need to fill for various events throughout the school year. Parents will be receiving an email within the next week with information on how to become involved with our school. We encourage you to become involved as earlier and as often as possible in the St. Ignatius community. Your participation is truly critical to the success of the programs at St. Ignatius.

Just think, as a direct result of the great many volunteers supporting our Be the Spark Dinner and Auction, we raised over \$78,000.00!! Simply put, without our volunteers we never would have been able to raise so much money for our Tuition Assistance Program.

When we come together and focus our time, energy and talent on a common goal, we can do amazing things-and we will!

Blessings,  
Hillary Smith, HSA President

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Twitter: @stignatiusid

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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 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:

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT LEADERSHIP MEETING- THE SENTINEL TEAM

Students who will be entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Ignatius next August are encouraged to join our school student leadership team- The Sentinel Team. The Sentinel Team is the team that will lead student programs at St. Ignatius. Our first meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-5:30 in the Parish Hall. If you are not able to attend this first meeting, don't worry—we will keep you posted on upcoming events and meetings.

#### SCHOOL DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE

Mark your calendar!! The St. Ignatius Catholic School Dedication and Open House 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to help give tours and assist with the open house. 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!

#### 4<sup>TH</sup>/5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Students who will be entering 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Ignatius next August are invited to help host the St. Vincent's Kitchen "Evening Dinner Service" for families in need on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-8pm. If you are interested in participating, please email Sarah Doering ([scdoering@gmail.com](mailto: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.

#### K-2<sup>ND</sup> CATHOLIC SCHOOL T-BALL

Each year the area Catholic schools form a K-2 t-ball league. It is a casual, fun-focused opportunity for kids and families to spend fun time together. We were thrilled by the overwhelming response of our families. We ended up with 2 St. Ignatius teams! Not only were the kids excited to participate, but we immediately

had several parents volunteer as coaches, team parents, and sponsors. Our teams are off to a great start, and we are proud to have them representing St. Ignatius! We want to thank our sponsors—**Dennis Dillon RV** and **Metal Shake** for their financial assistance, and our head coaches and coordinators—**Brandi and Christopher Mayes** for their leadership!



#### 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.*