



*Growing leaders who turn
FAITH into ACTION.*

SEPTEMBER, 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sep 4- No school for Labor Day

Sep 10- Holy Apostles Parish Mass and Picnic 10am- Settler's Park

Sep 12- HSA Meeting 7pm- School Commons

Sep 18- Individual Picture Day (Mass or Regular Uniform Dress)

Sep 25- Safe Environment Training 7pm- School Commons

Sep 20- Back to School Night- PreK-8th grade (6pm) in the School Gym- parents only please

Oct 5 & 6- No school

Oct 21- World Harvest Festival- 6pm at St. Ignatius

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

It was the second, maybe third day of school, and our 8th graders were eloquently reading the morning announcements over the intercom. These soon-to-be normal events still felt fragile, yet the poised students projected their voices through the school intercom system confidently.

Finally, the student reads, "Have a great day, Grey Wolves" thus ending the morning announcements. But that day, the office staff, student leaders, and I stopped for a moment....was that... the sound of howling we heard coming from the primary wing?

The next day, it was a little stronger, and by the fourth and fifth day, the howl was unmistakable. "Have a great day Grey Wolves" and then the brief, yet committed howling of our 1st-3rd grade students.

And so a new tradition, the first of so many, is born. But this one seemed special. It wasn't something we taught them. We, the staff, weren't creating the tradition or "teaching" them to take pride in their community. This time it was organic and came from the students themselves. We were hearing them take their own steps to embrace their community and create their own culture. To take their own place in the fabric of St. Ignatius Catholic School.

On our 8th day as St. Ignatius School we began the important tradition of attending Mass together. Although nearly 70% of our students have not previously attended a Catholic school, you would never have guessed this. Our students were polite, participatory and reverent throughout the prayerful celebration. Our readers and musicians were poised, confident and well-practiced.

What a fabulous way to start the year! We are so thrilled to bring you a Howl that finally showcases not just our plans, but how we have begun to bring these plans to life. Our students have brought life, laughter, and joy into these walls.

Welcome back to school!

Sincerely,

Andi Kane

Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School



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

Faculty: Maria Helena Aseguinolaza, Middle School Math/K-8 Spanish

Hometown: Meridian, Id

Background: Mrs. Aseguinolaza attended BSU and Clark Community College (in Vancouver) while working for HP for over 15 years. She graduated from BSU with a degree in Spanish and Secondary Education. Mrs. Aseguinolaza has been a teacher for 8 years and spent the last five years teaching 5th grade in a dual language program.

FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET MARIA HELENA ASEGUINOLAZA, MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH/K-8 SPANISH

What part of education are you most passionate about? *"I am passionate about caring for all the needs of our students. I value their differences and look for opportunities to help them embrace their uniqueness."*

What do you love about working in a school? *"I love working with young people and seeing them grow."*

What parts of St. Ignatius are you most passionate about? *"I am most passionate about the St. Ignatius community! I am also very excited to be teaching Spanish to the entire school."*

Who inspires you and why? *"I am inspired by the love and dedication I see from the St. Ignatius staff!"*

What is something that people might not know about you? *"My aunts (my mother's two sisters) are nuns and my (now deceased) uncle was a Franciscan priest. One aunt lived in Bolivia for nearly 10 years, while my uncle lived in the Dominican Republic; their summer visits were a highlight of my childhood. I have taken numerous trips to Spain and had the privilege of staying with my aunts in their community; getting to know these incredible people within their holy community has left a lasting impression on my family."*

HSA UPDATES-

Dear St. Ignatius Parents,

Wow, what a whirlwind this past month has been! School has started and your HSA is in full swing. We have been busy raising funds and making friends! Here are some of the highlights of what we've been up to: our Welcoming and Hospitality Committee hosted an awesome Back to School BBQ in August. It was so wonderful to see so many of our families join in the fun and show their support for our school community. Thank you to Trinity Emineth, Lisa Lizama and their amazing team for hosting the event. Our students started their first day of school with a red-carpet entrance! School spirit ran high through our halls thanks to the decorations and teacher gifts provided by our Welcoming and Hospitality team. Our parents were treated to donuts and coffee after drop-off on the first day of school. I enjoyed seeing so much support from parents-it's remarkable how happy everyone seemed!!!!

Thank you to our Fundraising team, led by Malcolm Carruthers, for coordinating the following fundraising initiatives in August: Mabel's Labels, Family Night Out at La Crema and the USC vs. Notre Dame Raffle. We are still waiting on our final fundraising numbers. Be sure to check the HSA Newsletter for updates!

In August, we held our first General HSA Meeting. Thank you to all those who attended and supported this meeting. I encourage every parent to attend these very important meetings. This is when the HSA decides how we will support the financial, academic, and spiritual needs of our school. Your opinion matters and we would love to hear it. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00pm in the Commons.

Since school has started, there is no better time to get involved and start volunteering! Check out our current volunteer opportunities at <http://signup.com/go/uIVzNEu>.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our HSA Meeting in September. It's always a great time to get involved with the HSA!

God Bless,

Hillary Smith, St. Ignatius School HSA President
hisa@stignatiusmeridian.org

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

FRED MEYER REWARDS- Link your Fred Meyer Rewards to St. Ignatius! Whenever you use your Rewards Card at Freddy's, you will help St. Ignatius earn a donation. If everyone participates, these rewards add up fast! And don't worry—you will continue to accrue your personal rewards, gas points and rebates. See the link here to sign up and enter our code: 90141. Note it will say Holy Apostles Catholic Church, but the money is directed to the school. <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4>

BLAZE PIZZA- Family Night at Blaze! Meet up with some friends, have a treat and support our school—what a great combination! Blaze Pizza is donating 20% of all proceeds between the hours of 6-8 on **Mon, Sep 25**.

EXCITING NEWS FOR ST. IGNATIUS

More good news for St. Ignatius Catholic School! St. Ignatius Catholic School is thrilled to announce that we have received a \$1.1M grant from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation that will assist us in granting additional tuition assistance, provide teachers with professional development opportunities, help fund the necessary tools to develop and implement our innovative academic design (combining individualized learning plans, station rotation, blended learning and inquiry learning), and offset anticipated operational deficits the first few years.

The JKAF Foundation noted that St. Ignatius is “likely the first Catholic school in the country – certainly in Idaho – to fully embrace core concepts associated with 21st century learning. This is reflected in the school’s flexible learning spaces, innovative uses of learning technologies and varied instructional groupings.”

This grant is a culmination of work that began in the fall of 2016 when the JKAF Foundation provided St. Ignatius with a \$100,000 planning grant. This planning grant allowed school leadership to partner with Bluum, a non-profit organization dedicated to growing successful school models in Idaho, and Bellwether Education Partners. These partners have tremendous experience in developing innovative, successful education programs. They provided St. Ignatius school leaders with research, guidance, and an opportunity to visit schools around the country to learn about and observe successful models in education. School leaders were then able to take the best of everything learned and observed, and incorporate the particular elements that were determined to fit best with our community, our mission statement, and our philosophy.

Once school leaders created the academic model that would allow us to best achieve our mission, we applied for a grant that would give us the necessary funding to implement and support our educational model. We were acutely aware that an education model such as ours would only be successful with proper teacher training and professional development, the necessary curriculum and technology materials, and the financial support for our general operating budget to allow us to keep class sizes small as we launch our program. The \$1.1M grant from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation makes all of that possible.

“We are excited to have this investment in our educational model,” stated Andi Kane, principal. “These resources will help us achieve our vision from the start rather than struggling the first few years. This generous grant allows us to implement our programs such as MakerSpace and individualized learning from day one.”

Mrs. Kane noted, “We are eternally grateful for the support provided by the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation in providing this funding and appreciate their faith in our program.”

Our Fabulous First Day!



FUNDING ST. IGNATIUS

Did you know that for the 2017-2018 school year, the actual cost to educate each St. Ignatius student is \$6,500.00? As parents know, the tuition paid for each student is substantially less than \$6,500.00. That means that every student that attends St. Ignatius during the 2017-2018 school year is receiving financial assistance. Furthermore, we provide additional need based financial assistance to any family that qualifies. We do this because we want St. Ignatius to be accessible to as many families as possible.

So how do we do it? Our ability to maintain affordable tuition for all, and financial assistance to those who need it, depends on the philanthropic generosity of many—through grants, individual gifts and donations, fundraising and subsidization from the Holy Apostles Parish. These gifts “bridge the gap” between the actual cost to educate a student at St. Ignatius and the amount of tuition paid for each student. In addition, these gifts allow us to maintain facilities, improve our library and technology resources and provide continuing professional development for our faculty.

We are continuously investigating and pursuing grant opportunities such as the JKAF Foundation Grant. However, fundraising and donations from within our own community are essential for us to succeed with this financial model. Our HSA is working hard to plan 3 major fundraising events for this school year and we are hopeful that all families in our community will participate in and attend these events. In addition, we will be having an annual donation drive in October/November, and will provide families with more information at that time about the tax benefits of donating to the school. Finally, families can help us by participating in kick-back and rewards programs—things like Fred Meyer’s Community Rewards, Amazon Smiles, Scips, and UND Credit Union—that we will be rolling out throughout this year. These programs offer an opportunity for the school to receive a rebate or portion of proceeds from purchases you already make. We will be advising you about these opportunities in the months to come and we hope that you will continue your support.

Celebrating our first all school Mass!



SUPPORT SERVICES SEGMENT

A message from Mrs. Z:

This first two weeks at St. Ignatius has been incredible! We are so blessed to have such amazing students, teachers, staff, and families. We have been putting a significant amount of time and energy into creating our school culture and forming and strengthening our community. A culture that fosters learning, love, growth, reverence, and social justice, along with a strong sense of community, is vital to our mission and will benefit our students in so many different ways.

Mrs. Johnson and I have visited every classroom in this last two weeks and are beginning to introduce the concepts of our school-wide Behavioral Growth Plan. We, along with teachers and all staff, talk to the students about The Path of St. Ignatius and how it should be our goal to follow his path by learning, growing, loving, and being reverent seekers of justice. We also discussed how our emotions can sometimes take us off of that Path. It is important for students to learn that all emotions are okay, but that there are expected and unexpected ways to show our emotions. We will be giving the students tools that they can use to control their emotions so that they can stay on The Path.

I look forward to spending more time in the classroom teaching these concepts that are so important to our students' social/emotional development. I hope you will ask your students about what they have learned and encourage them to use their tools at home!

St. Ignatius Catholic School
6300 N. Meridian Rd
Meridian ID 83642
208-888-4759

www.stignatiusmeridian.net

Connect with us!

Facebook: [stignatiuscatholicschool](https://www.facebook.com/stignatiuscatholicschool)

Twitter: [@stignatiusid](https://twitter.com/stignatiusid)

Instagram: [stignatiusmeridian](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusmeridian)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strength of community is one of the cornerstone philosophies of St. Ignatius Catholic School community! A vibrant community gives children strong roots to grow and develop. We encourage all families to participate in our many social, service and volunteer endeavors to help us build and strengthen the St. Ignatius family.

PARISH PICNIC & MASS- SEP 10

Holy Apostles Parish is hosting their annual Mass in the Park and Picnic and invite all St. Ignatius families to attend. Please join us at Settler's Park on Sep 10 at 10 am for Mass followed by a picnic. Please RSVP in the church foyer. Menu is sub sandwiches, chips, water and a bundtini (from Nothing Bundt Cakes in Meridian).

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT- SEP 20

Back to School night is on Sep 20th at 6 pm for parents of PreK-8th grade students. We will begin with a meeting in the Gymnasium and then parents will visit their student's classroom. Please note that this evening is not intended to be time for individual student conferencing—but, rather, an opportunity for teachers to convey information about their plans, policies, and procedures to all parents of the class. If you need to set up time to speak with your child's teacher individually, please contact them to schedule a meeting. These meetings are for parents only please.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT- SEP 25

All adults who will interact with students at St. Ignatius need to complete the Safe Environment training program required by the Diocese. The first time you take the Safe Environment training, it must be completed in-person. After that, you may renew each year online. For more information, please see the Safe Environment tab on our website. We will have a training session on Sep 25 at 7pm in the Commons. Please RSVP to info@stignatiusmeridian.org to attend.

WORLD HARVEST FESTIVAL- OCT 21

Get ready for the St. Ignatius World Harvest Festival on October 21st!! This event is an effort to raise funds to support the financial needs of the school and to build our community! We NEED your culinary talents!! Do you have a family recipe that represents your cultural traditions or a killer chili recipe that is sure to win a cook off? We need contestants for our international food fair! Please email Jennifer Moore at jenmooreinteriors@gmail.com for details and to sign up!! Awards (and bragging rights) for best in class!



Students celebrating our first all school Mass—the Mass of the Holy Spirit!

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.