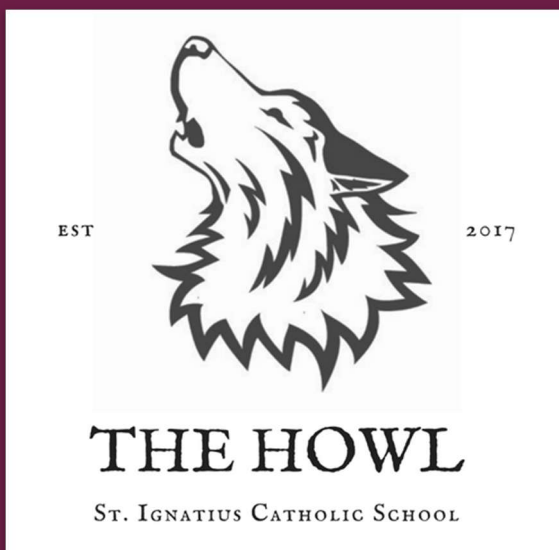


FALL, 2019



Growing leaders who turn  
FAITH into ACTION.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

Oct 11- JOG A THON

Oct 20- School hosted Mass 6pm at HA

Oct 23- Open House for Prospective Parents  
5:30pm at SI

Oct 24/25- Student-Led Conferences

Nov 25-29- Thanksgiving Break

Dec 23- Jan 6- Christmas Break

Jan 26- School hosted Mass 9am and 11am at  
HA

Jan 26- 31- CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Feb 20- Grandparent's Day

Feb 22- SI DINNER AUCTION & GALA

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School community,

This school year our students, staff, and families are embracing the theme “Seek”. To *seek* means that we take active steps towards discovering good in the world. It is different than “finding” which implies an element of chance and luck. While it may be lucky to happen across a penny on the ground, think of what we would find if we were *seeking* out every lost penny!

Each trimester we will focus on *seeking* a specific trait or virtue. This first trimester we are *seeking community*. Fr. Len talked with the St. Ignatius staff in August about the theology of *communio*. This is described as “tight knit unity”. It recognizes that the individual drastically affects those around him, and consequently has an effect on the whole group. A negative attitude will impact someone three removed from that attitude. Likewise, a positive spirit or a good deed will ripple down through the community. *Communio* acknowledges that we can accomplish so much more when we are knit closely together and positively influence those around us.

Many of those in the St. Ignatius community are embarking upon our third year together. The roots of this community are sinking in. I watch as parents greet each other eagerly in the parking lot or visit at volleyball games. I see students standing up for classmates they have known now for years, or perhaps for a new member of the community. I watch as our staff and students welcome guests and visitors into our building with the same open arms that Christ preaches in the Gospels. There is a culture that has taken form and is taking off!

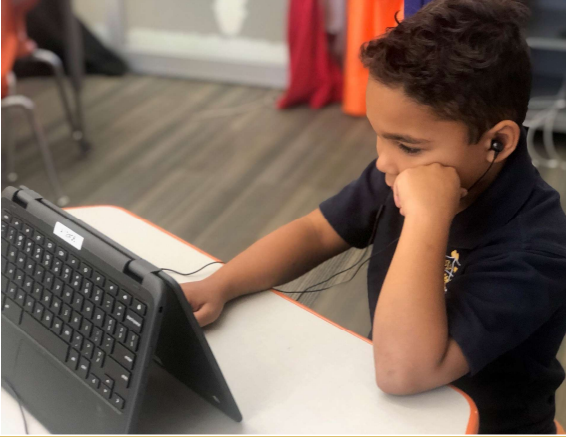
Thank you for your part in the St. Ignatius community. Your smiles, support, and prayers are digging deep roots that will serve as a foundation for decades. The sacrifices you make to support our school with your time, talent and/or treasure are setting the stage for our future. As we seek community together this trimester, we are grateful to all you do to make our St. Ignatius family strong!

Peace,  
Andi Kane, Principal

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

## GREAT THINGS HAPPENING!

We are off to a great school year at St. Ignatius Catholic School. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, we opened our doors to 482 students. This was well above our targeted enrollment for year 3 and makes us the largest Catholic elementary school in Idaho by quite a lot! Our community is off to a great start this year. Both parents and staff put in a lot of work over the summer months to make sure that our year began with great success. We have already witnessed the benefits of all this hard work and are grateful to everyone who continues to pour their hearts into making St. Ignatius successful.



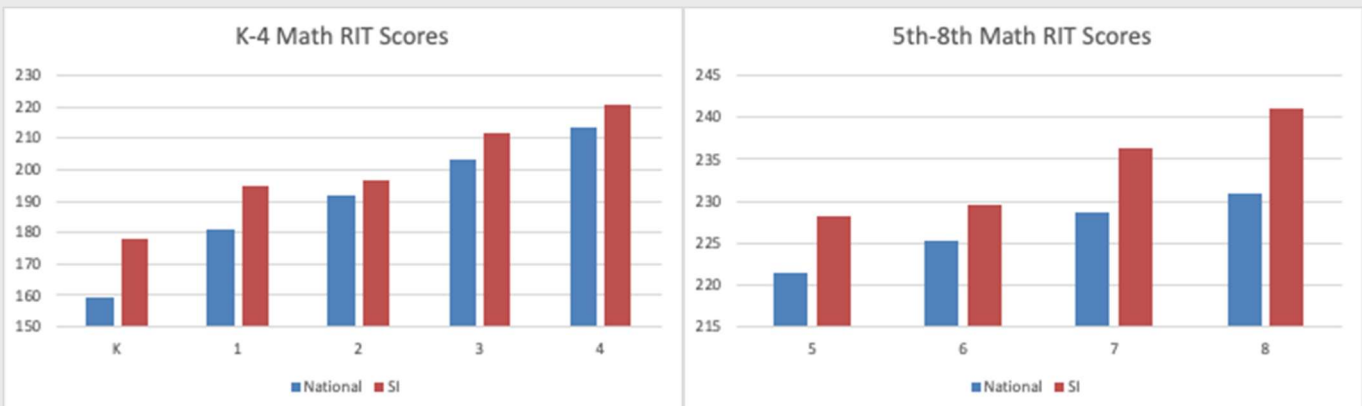
LET TODAY BE  
THE START OF  
SOMETHING  
NEW



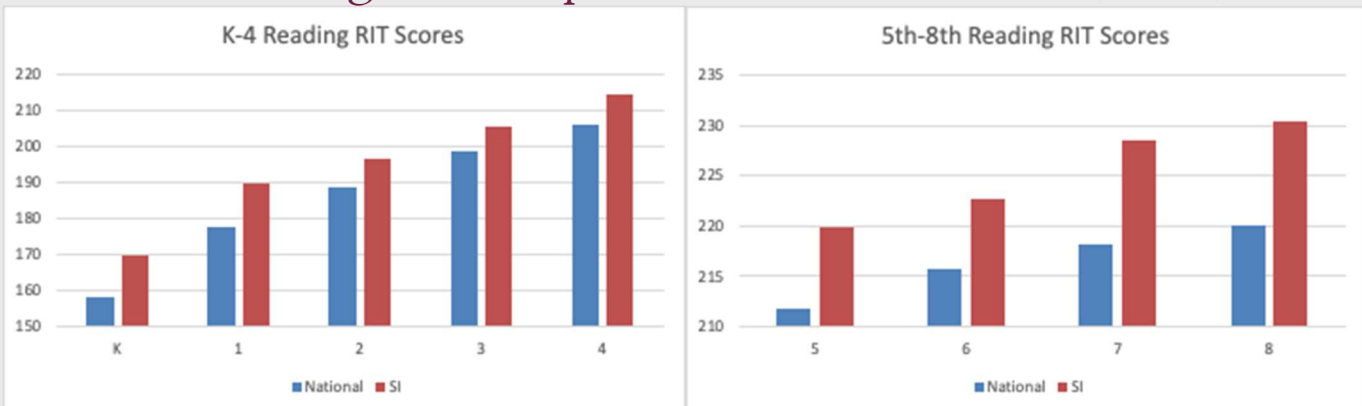
# 2018/2019 WRAP UP

In the Ignatian tradition, St. Ignatius Catholic School is a school that GROWS! As a school community, we want to always take time to reflect on what is going well, what needs improvement, and how each person on our staff can be striving for their MAGIS and improving student growth. During the last 6 months, we have spent time studying school data that we collected from a variety of sources- MAPs tests, parent surveys, student surveys, and staff surveys- so that we can make informed and thoughtful decisions about school improvement. This process is critical for our growth and directly affects student learning so it is important to share the important take-aways with everyone in our community!

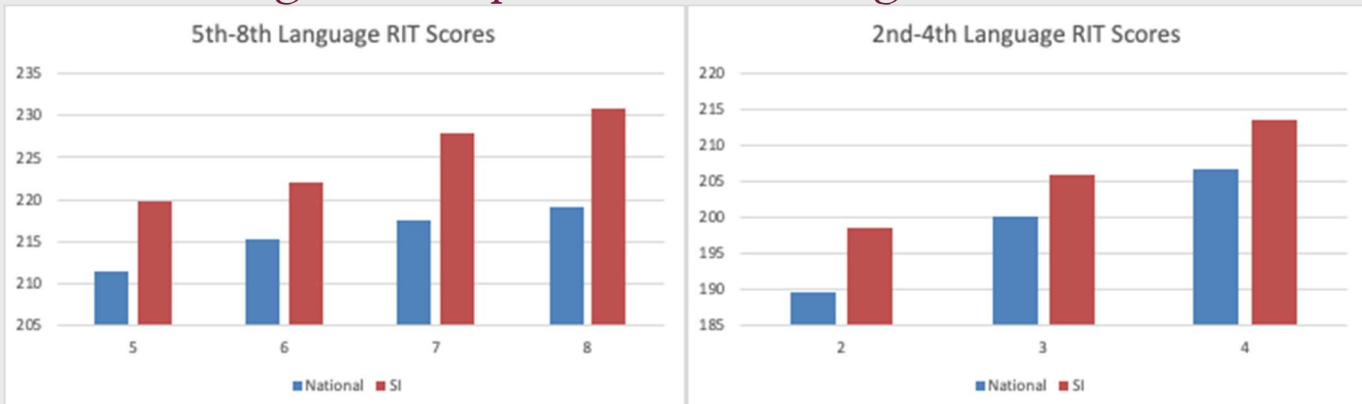
## Congratulations teachers and students on 2019 MAP testing!.



Average student percentile in math: 83.4% (K-8th)



Average student percentile in reading: 91.1% (K-8th)



Average student percentile in language: 90.3% (2nd-8th)

# OTHER THINGS WE ARE PROUD OF.....

## OUR SCHOOL CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT ARE STRONG!

- 95.2% of our parents report that their students feel welcome at school
- 95.5% of our K-3 students feel that their teachers care about them and 94.8% feel that their teachers treat them with respect
- 92.9% of our K-3 students say they like school & 95.9% report that they feel safe at school
- 90.5% of our 4-8 students feel that their principal treats them with respect and 73.5% agree or strongly agree that teachers treat them with respect
- 76.6% agree or strongly agree that their teachers care about them

*Kids learn best when they feel safe, respected and loved*



## GREAT STRIDES IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

- 72.5% of parents in 2018/2019 agree or strongly agree that we are “meeting our goal of academic excellence” versus 57.4% in 2017/2018
- 72.9% of parents in 2018/2019 report that academic demands are “just right” versus 52.8% in 2017/2018
- 72.9% of parents feel that their students are being encouraged to reach their highest potential at school
- 93.7% of our K-3 students agree or strongly agree that their work makes them think
- 95.5% of our 4-8 students agree or strongly agree that their teacher expects them to do their best
- 73% of our 4-8 students agree or strongly agree that their teacher sets high standards for achievement in their class



## CONTINUED SUCCESS IN FAITH FORMATION!

94.2% of our parents feel that we are meeting our goal of faith formation

95% of our parents feel that we have solid instruction of Catholic church teaching

94.8% of our K-3 students agree or strongly agree that they are learning about Catholic faith

79.5% of our 4-8 students agree that their teachers are supporting their faith development

*“St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school...”*



# AREAS OF GROWTH



## GOAL #1 Continued Improvement of Academic Excellence

### Improve Peer Culture in 4-8 Program

More than 84.4% of K-3 students report having many friends at school....*our goal is that more than 85% our 4-8 students feel the same way!*

#### Action Plan

**Increased instruction on conflict resolution-** Our school psychologists will be increasing classroom instruction regarding conflict resolution and healthy social interaction.

**Community Initiative-** We have implemented a school wide theme of "community" this year which is being emphasized at school and in the parish (including at school assemblies, masses, programming).

### Continued Improvement of Academic Excellence

- Increase the number of students exceeding their individual growth goals on MAP test.
- Increase percentage of parents reporting that we are meeting or exceeding our goals of Academic Excellence to more than 90%.

#### Action Plan

**Increasing Effective Teacher Collaboration-** We have moved to monthly  $\frac{1}{2}$  days committed to staff collaboration. These meetings are focused solely on student growth.

**Continued Curricular Development with Diocese Partners-** We are meeting with teachers from throughout the Diocese to continue curriculum improvement, and work towards vertical alignment with BK to grow high school preparedness.

**Teacher Placement-** We have made schedule changes and changes to grade level assignments to allow teachers to better specialize in their content and age level specialty.

#### Increased Academic Intervention-

- Full time West Ada employee designated for reading and math intervention program.
- Part-time SI employee to assist with development and fidelity to intervention plans.
- Speech intervention services through West Ada.
- RTI process formalized by school psychologist and



## GOAL #2 Improve Peer Culture in 4-8 Program

# MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Thank you to all who joined us at our first Mass of the 2019-2020 School Year- the Mass of the Holy Spirit. What a wonderful way to usher in a new school year! THE MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is a tradition among Jesuit academic institutions dating to 1548 in which the community gathers to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation and to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the coming year. We usher in a new academic year; welcome our incoming students, faculty and staff; and ask God's blessing on us and the work we do together.



# STAFF SUMMER WORK



Our staff worked hard over the summer months to keep our school improvement plans in motion. St. Ignatius Catholic School is a school that is constantly reflecting on what is going well, what needs improvement, and how each person on our staff can be striving for their MAGIS!

Below are some of the many ways that our staff worked on improving St. Ignatius Catholic School during the summer months.

**Pre-K-** 2 of our Pre-K teachers attended a Learning Without Tears conference in Spokane that focused on writing, reading, and math instruction for pre-school aged students.

## Middle School Math

Middle school math teachers Ms. Yado, Ms. Shea, and Mrs. Sieker spent several weeks looking at student achievement data and making student placement and instructional adjustments for this school year. They, along with math teaching staff from the Diocese, also met with Bishop Kelly's math department to discuss math progression from St. Ignatius middle school to Bishop Kelly. Based on recommendations for best-practices in math, our teachers modified our course sequence to offer a *strong* foundation in Algebra and Geometry skills prior to entering high school. Additionally, Mrs. Sieker and Ms. Yado attended a course on math instructions in Idaho Falls and spent time collaborating and planning for this school year.



## Behavior Team

A team of teachers used parent survey feedback to address concerns of unexpected behaviors and unkindness in the school. Mrs. Zambukos and Mrs. Johnson have begun teaching lessons using a curriculum called Peace First that is designed to build the knowledge, skills, relationships, and experiences that students need to become effective peacemakers. Peacemakers are those who cooperate with others, communicate respectfully, are kind and fair, and stand up for those in need.

## Inquiry

Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Emmett, Mrs. Batt, and Mrs. Haws worked on building Inquiry units for fourth and fifth grade. These units integrate Catholic Social Teaching within science and social studies to make kids think about ways their learning can improve the world.

## Social Studies

Mr. M, Mrs. Dressler, Ms. Brinegar and Mrs. Thomas met with teachers from around the Diocese at Bishop Kelly for several days to discuss Social Studies curriculum across the Diocese. Their work focused on identifying holes in the current curriculum and looking specifically at skills that students are lacking in high school. Based on these discussions, St. Ignatius was able to quickly adapt and modify our current curriculum to address these areas of focus.

## ELA- English and Language Arts

Mrs. Thomas, Ms. Brinegar and Mrs. Batt met with teachers at Bishop Kelly from around the Diocese this summer to look at writing skills of students across the Diocese. Our school's current writing continuum, built last summer by our amazing ELA team, was used as a model of a schoolwide writing plan (with rubrics and exemplars). Our ELA team also worked on creating novel lists for each grade.

**Curriculum Mapping:** Every teacher created at least one curriculum map over the summer and are working to achieve a map at every subject and grade level.

# FALL FESTIVAL!

What a great Fall Festival!!! It was so great to see so many of our students and families enjoying a fun evening and getting to know one another outside of school.

A HUGE thank you to all who worked so hard to plan this fun community building event. The Fall Festival planning committee worked all summer to pull off this wonderful evening for our families. Thank you to the event chairs, Joe Isanga and Francine Smith, all of the committee members, and all the volunteers who worked at the event. Thank you to Cindi Marcotte who worked with our volunteers and Sarah Doering for leading all of our HSA events. A special thank you to Jason and Pam Jaszkwiaak from Brew'd Attitude for donating hundreds of coffee drinks for the evening, and to all of our community donors who donated amazing items for the raffle, including Goodwood, Kneaders, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and Big Al's. This evening is only possible because of the willingness of our great families to pitch in and make it happen! Thank you to all who attended and helped build and support our school community.



## GRAY WOLF SUMMER!!

A HUGE thank you to the many volunteers who worked over the summer months to help keep our community going strong during the summer months.

Thank you to Weeb Martin and his many volunteers who worked hard to grow and maintain our amazing garden this summer. It is in full bloom and our students enjoy fresh veggies daily!

Thank you to Sarah Doering, Megan Marston, Jessica Ellison, and all of the volunteers who worked so hard to plan and host all of our summer student socials and our new family social event. These events keep our students connected over the summer months.

And thank you to Chrissy Kane and the many volunteers who worked over the summer to set up our uniform exchange program (the Wolf Swap). This is such a great service to provide for our parents.

THANK YOU GRAY WOLVES!



## THANK YOU 2018/2019 HSA

We want to take a moment to give a HUGE shout out to our 2018-2019 HSA board and fund-raising event chairmen and committees!! Our HSA donated \$128,000 last year to the school and \$55,200 to the St. Ignatius Foundation! This money went to purchase things like our beautiful garden shed, to help support our operating gap, and to help fund the Foundation which provides need based financial assistance. We are committed to keeping the cost of tuition as affordable as possible for all of our families and these funds are critical in allowing us to keep the cost of tuition lower than our cost to educate our students. THANK YOU, HSA, for helping make that possible!!!

## WELCOME 2019/2020 HSA

Our 2019/2020 HSA is off to a great start, led by our President, Sarah Doering. HSA hosted several wonderful events over the summer to keep our students connected during the summer months and welcome in new students. In addition, the HSA Wolf Den committee hosted uniform exchanges and organized the Wolf Den for future sales events. Finally, our HSA Fall Festival committee spent countless hours making plans for this year's Fall Festival which was such a fun event for our entire community. If you are interested in getting involved with this critical piece of our community, please contact Sarah Doering at [sdoering@gmail.com](mailto:sdoering@gmail.com).

## UP NEXT....JOG A THON!

The 2019/2020 Jog A Thon will take place October 11<sup>th</sup>! This is one of the favorite events of the year for our students and a huge fundraiser for our school. This year, proceeds from the Jog A Thon will go towards our performing arts program—including improvements to our stage and music room. We have some really fun new things planned for our students this year and look forward to another fun Jog A Thon!

St. Ignatius Catholic School  
6180 N. Meridian Rd  
Meridian ID 83646  
208-888-4759

[www.stignatiusmeridian.org](http://www.stignatiusmeridian.org)

Connect with us!

Facebook:

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

Twitter: @stignatiusid

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

## 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.*