



Take a look at what our parents, graduates and students have to say about ICGS.

“When we started at ICGS in the fall of 1983, we had 2 children, ages 1 and 3. It was time for our 3 year old daughter to start preschool. ICGS was just opening their preschool for the first time! Little did I know that the first year would be the first of thirty-two years. Our family grew from 2 children to 8 over a span of twenty-one years. ICGS is truly our other home. Each of our 8 children has been blessed to be able to attend 11 years there – preschool through eighth grade. Today we are overwhelmed with gratitude for all of the priests, principals, teachers, and other families that we have been blessed to know. It has been nothing short of a beautiful journey and we thank the good Lord every day for placing us in such a wonderful school. God bless you all!”

Bob and Cathy Platt, ICGS Parents

“ICGS left me completely prepared to enter my high school career and ultimately it’s Catholic education influenced me to attend its neighboring high school, IC Catholic Prep. The ICGS teachers and curriculum challenged me so much that I had almost no struggle entering the vigorous high school classes I would go on to take. At ICGS I learned that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to and I can succeed at far more than just school. I can honestly say that ICGS helped make me the honors student, two sport athlete, and active member of the community I am today. The friendships and connections I made at IC will last forever. Being at the school just across the parking lot, I often see the amazing teachers I once had and cannot believe how fast the time has gone since my wonderful days at ICGS.”

Molly Fahey (ICGS Class of 2013)

"As I prepare to begin my graduate studies, I cannot help but think back on all the years of schooling that have brought me to this point, and I have come to realize that it was my very first schooling experience that has proved most formative for me. I credit ICGS with instilling in me a life-long curiosity and desire to learn which have allowed me to thrive in all of my subsequent academic settings. With teachers who cared not only for my academic but also for my spiritual development, ICGS provided me with a safe and positive environment in which to learn and grow. And for that, I will always be grateful."

Shannon Healy (ICGS Class of 2007)

Cellular and Molecular Biology - University of Michigan, 2015

Attending Columbia University for Masters in Public Health

“Without the faith-filled atmosphere I experienced at ICGS, I would not be the same athlete or student that I am today. The foundation I received from a Catholic education has been applicable in a variety of ways throughout my high school career. I have come to value the importance of service in the community as well as being respectful in the classroom, on the golf course, or on the basketball court. The lessons and countless gifts my teachers and coaches at ICGS gave me are ones that I will truly appreciate forever.”

Megan Backman, (ICGS Class of 2012)

“ICGS provides an education for your mind and love for your soul. Our kids have always been treated with respect. They have been very well educated and have blossomed into compassionate young adults, I believe, because of their experience at ICGS.”

Ramona Giralamo, ICGS Parent

“For every major subject, ICGS students enter high school unbelievably prepared, wholly through the quality of their teachers. English, Science and History with Mrs. Donovan, Mrs. Albert and Mrs. Marchinski make a world of difference. Pay attention to Mrs. Albert. It will pay off. I can promise you that.”

Christian Sparacino (ICGS Class of 2006)

Biochemisty - Georgetown University

“We are the proud parents of three daughters who have grown up in the ICGS community. We have watched our children become compassionate caring young ladies as their faith grew throughout their grade school years. With the support of the ICGS community, the girls learned the importance of service and sharing their talents. Academically, they have been able to accelerate their learning in areas of high competence and compensate in areas where they are more challenged. All of our girls had opportunities to develop their leadership skills through a variety of activities including the early participation in school sports, instilling a sense of pride and teamwork. ICGS provided a great start to our girl’s academic career and helped them develop into leaders in their community!”

David Wartner, ICGS Parent

“My husband and I decided to send our children to ICGS because it provides an education based on religious beliefs and values coupled with academic excellence. ICGS has enabled our children to grow in their understanding of themselves and their relationships with God and others. It is important to us that our children be challenged academically while learning to make Catholicism part of their daily lives. ICGS integrates the two perfectly. We have been very blessed to be a part of the ICGS community for more than 10 years.”

Linda Maloney McCarthy, ICGS Parent & Alumna

“Gabriella's education at ICGS has been wonderful. It has emphasized how to be respectful to all adults. She tells me that her teachers talk about how to be respectful throughout her day and when she goes above and beyond she gets rewarded. Gabriella also loves that everyone knows her, from Mrs. Linley to Mrs. Bartels and everyone in between. She really feels loved and loves going to school because of this sense of family. I also found that she is learning about her faith and in a fun way and she comes home to talk about it with me.”

Anna Maria Cantrell, ICGS Parent

“Thanking Immaculate Conception Grade School for helping our daughters receive the educational foundation to help them succeed in the future. More importantly we are so grateful for your help in guiding them to be better Catholics. We would not have traded all the projects, early morning track meets, and countless volleyball and basketball games for anything. Here’s to 23 years at IC and 23 years of memories.

Bill and Marci Gratianna

“Thank you and bless you, ICGS. You have surrounded our family with faith, love, and knowledge over the past 16 years. We will continue to grow in our works and deeds, cherish each memory, and thrive on the successful foundation your hands and hearts helped establish.”

Joe and Kathy Buffo

“Three years ago, we made the decision to enroll our son at ICGS. It has been an amazing experience ever since! It’s hard to put into words the blessings, love, and friendships we have made and will treasure. God placed us right where we needed to be. Thank you to all of the teachers, staff, coaches, students, and families who have embraced our son and our family. It’s a part of our lives we will cherish forever.”

Joe and Michelle Phalen

“The girls absolutely love IC and as parents Jennifer and I feel that they are in the best place possible to succeed academically, spiritually and socially. This contribution was just a small gesture of thanks for all IC has done to make our family feel welcome. It seems like the girls have been a part of IC for a lot longer than just a year and a half. I feel it is us as a family that owe all of you a hearty thanks for everything you do/have done for all of the students. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.”

Roy King, ICGS Parent

“My husband and I truly valued the partnership we had with the teachers and administration at ICGS. From excellent faith formation and service opportunities to competitive opportunities in academics and athletics, ICGS nurtures the whole child. We chose to send our (3) daughters to a school that reinforces our belief that, through every one of life’s challenges, God will always be with them. In a rapidly changing world, we feel that this belief, instilled from a young age, will carry our girls through their most difficult struggles. We also appreciate the sense of responsibility that was instilled in our daughters. They learned that they are called to serve others and to use their talents to improve our world. Thank you, ICGS, for expecting the most from our children in every aspect of their elementary education.”

Kathleen Hillsman, ICGS Former Parent

“Out of the first 50 days of 2014, I spent 33 of them in a hospital room. 33 days in a hospital room gives you extremely long periods of time to think...As the days dragged on and on, and my wife and I talked on the phone or when she came to visit, I learned of the spiritual support that she was receiving. It was the Immaculate Conception family. Countless families from the school, far too many to mention names, were coming forward, unasked, to help the Kapsch family. Meal after meal was dropped off at our doorstep, families stepped up to help with the kids, rides were given to help with social and athletic events, cards were sent, phone calls, and many other things. It was a very humbling, emotional experience...We were obviously blown away by the care and love and sharing that was exemplified by the Priests and many, many families of IC, but all the while, a third group of people of people was giving us an outpouring of their care and well-wishes and prayers, too. The teachers of ICGS. So many cards came in the mail, notes came home in the backpacks, and one teacher, whom we are extremely fond of, on more than one occasion, sent home prayer cards and handwritten notes and questions of concern. Truly touching, moving, and certainly unforgettable. The first Friday I was home, there was a seventh grade mass at which my daughter was doing a reading and there was no way I was going to miss it. I will never forget after the mass, as we were waiting to wave good-bye to the kids, every single member of the faculty that I know came up to me, gave me a hug and kiss, and welcomed me home. It truly moved me to tears. We expect these men and women to educate our kids, but this is over and above and really made me sit back and think. We do not have a conventional school situation here, it is much, much more. These people are not just teachers, they are part of the IC family.

That is what it is, a family. “

Mike Kapsch, ICGS Parent

“One of the most valuable skills I learned at ICGS was public speaking. Though I couldn't foresee its benefits at the time, Mrs. Donovan's 6th grade monthly speech requirement greatly prepared me for high school and beyond. As a high school student, required to take a one-semester course in speech, I could truly appreciate the value of my prior public speech training. The students from other grade schools, who had never before been required to give speeches, faced much greater struggles with speech class than the ICGS students. While Mrs. Donovan greatly helped me through my sophomore year in high school, I know that the skills I learned in her class will continue to benefit me as I step forward into adulthood.

Thank you, ICGS.”

Christie Hillsman (ICGS Class of 2007)

English & Italian major with minor in Business (Economics) - University of Notre Dame

“I like that the teachers are so interactive with the kids. It makes learning a lot more fun. My favorite project this year was making mummy masks. We actually did everything ourselves.”

Joe K. (6th grade)

“We chose ICGS for many reasons...some as small as a whispered prayer before a test and some as large as the Crucifix hanging in the Church.”

Amy Grogan, ICGS Parent

One of the main reasons I would recommend Immaculate Conception Grade School is the acceptance of student opinion. Open-mindedness in an administration creates an interactive atmosphere where the student can take more responsibility in the different aspects of an institution and allows the student to assume a more realistic and adult-like role. If someone is told what to do, he or she naturally resists, but if someone is given a choice they will either come to realize the fault of their ways or stand with pride by the betterment that was resultant of his or her decision (the scenarios are dependent on their respective outcomes). An example of this is when my peers and I took the idea of chewing gum while taking a standardized test to the principal. Our point was that it is a neuro-stimulant which could potentially increase performance. The principal at the time gave us a chance. While testing was in session, one rascal began to chew loudly to anger the teacher. I remember my embarrassment as the entire class followed his lead; the noise of students chewing more and more loudly rose like the claiming of the title, “Spartacus.” I learned the complexity of rule making and that one person can ruin a privilege for a whole group or class; I feel I never could have been taught this respect for the system by traditional disciplinary means. From then on I had more respect for rules and the reasons behind their implementation, all because I.C. allowed me to develop skills as a person and as a hardworking student.

Furthermore, the grammar that I learned under the ICGS English Department was more than sufficient for my success on the ACT/SAT tests and necessary considering the lack thereof in most high school curricula. Also, my desire to be an engineer was sparked by my positive experiences in the classroom/lab with Mrs. Albert and Mrs. B.

Matt Garelli (ICGS Class of 2008)

Engineering (and wrestling) at Stanford University

“Our science and social studies discussions were really involved and interesting this year. We learned a lot by discussing what we were learning. It helps us to remember what we’ve learned. Our hands on experiments were really good too.”

Gen G. (7th Grade)

“ICGS is the best decision you’ll ever make to have your student succeed academically, athletically and spiritually. High expectations bring out the best in all of us. My only regret is that we didn’t move him there sooner!”

Letitia Tait, ICGS Parent

“I graduated from ICGS in 2003 and I still look back on my grade school days fondly. I think one of the biggest things that ICGS did for me was to teach me great study habits. I worked hard in all my classes while in grade school and this carried over to high school. I always knew to complete my homework and how to prepare for exams. I still remember how Immaculate Conception Grade School had "late slips" if you didn't complete your homework on time and I never wanted to get one of these. As a result, I was well prepared for high school. Also, the best thing about Immaculate Conception for me was the lasting friendships I made there. I made great friends at a young age (preschool), and to this day these girls are still my best friends. We remained friends through all of high school and college and I am very thankful for my ICGS years that brought me these friendships.”

Catherine Byrne (ICGS Class of 2003)

“We learn about our faith here and our faith education is just as important as our regular education.”

Grace M. (5th Grade)

“We send out really great, polite, and kind kids. ICGS provides "the whole package". Not only do we focus on academics; but also, faith, community, and pride in oneself.”

Denene Doughty, ICGS Parent

“The teachers are so friendly here. I love that we have our own little church under the school and that we go to Friday Mass. It helps you to think about living a good, holy life.”

Kathryn K. (4th Grade)

“Currently, I am a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Industrial and Systems Engineering. I absolutely love it here, and cannot see myself anywhere else. College life is not like anything else I have ever experienced. It has a whole new experience, in which it is the first time that I have been on my own. It has been an unbelievable ride filled with many new people and experiences. Although college life is filled with temptations, I am confident that I have continued to stay on the right path. Honestly, I can say that I would not be where I am today without the help of ICGS. IC taught me many valuable lessons that I use every day. To this day, I still use the tools I have learned in Math, Science, and Grammar. Although I know you all think sometimes your teachers can be tough, they truly know what they are talking about, and I advise you all to listen. Believe me, YOU DO USE THOSE MATH PROBLEMS ALL THE TIME. Continue to work hard in all your classes, and I guarantee your hard will pay off in the end. Most importantly, ICGS taught me skills and values that I use outside the classroom every day. The character and faith values ICGS instilled in me have been a vital part to my growth as a young man. Continue to always make smart decisions, see the good in others, and keep God close. I know you hear it all the time, but these small tasks can really make a huge impact in your life. Lastly, continue to build friendships with all your classmates. To this day, I still keep in touch with all of them, and they are always there for me when I am in a need of a helping hand.”

Chris Cheng (ICGS Class of 2006)
Industrial & Systems Engineering-University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Some of the things we're doing in AP Chemistry are the same things we were doing in Mrs. Albert's Science class. I remember that she was the first person to teach us about dot diagrams, bonding, and the rule of eight. When Chemistry came around sophomore year, I had a much easier time with bonding than most classmates, and I have her to thank for it - the extra year of experience really helped.”

John Arnold (ICGS Class of 2007)
University of Illinois

“ICGS had significantly prepared me for high school at ICHS in many ways but the most influential years were 5th and 6th grade with Mrs. B, Mrs. Mc Elmeel, and Mrs. Donovan. These teachers assisted me in becoming a more confident young man and believing in myself. Mrs. B always told me that I was special and unique in a great way and that I would be successful in anything I did. Mrs. Donovan prepared me for the theater, that I have been very involved with for the past four years I have been at ICHS, landing roles like Charlie Brown in the "Your a Good Man Charlie Brown Musical" and Edna in "Hair Spray." I remember the first song I sang in 6th grade with Mrs. Donovan instead of reading it as a poem. It was a patriotic song, and Mrs. Donovan was in the back of the room with tears coming down her cheeks. She later told me how beautiful I sang and how brave I was to be the only one that day who chose to sing instead of reading it as a poem. Mrs. B, Mrs. Mc Elmeel and Mrs. Donovan gave me the confidence to keep trying and it hasn't been easy. They each hold a very special place in my heart and I feel because of them I have been successful in my studies as an honor student, in the theater and in Art. I believe I will continue to be successful in college either majoring in Pharmacy, Medicine or Theater. I feel they have helped me believe in myself then and even now and to never give up on your dream.”

Brendan Daly (ICGS Class of 2008)
Columbia University

“I would say that we were definitely very prepared for my required Speech class sophomore year because of all the public speaking work we did at ICGS with Mrs. Donovan and with the experience of speech competitions. We entered the class with the advantage of having good direction, experience, and encouragement from Mrs. Donovan!”

Francesca Cozzi (ICGS Class of 2007))
Pre-Medicine-University of Notre Dame

“The work ethic I learned at I.C.G.S. helped me to be very successful in high school.”

Emma Backman (ICGS Class of 2007)
Biomedical Engineering-University of Michigan