



Immaculate Conception Grade School

Year in Review 2021-2022

Our Mission

As an educational ministry of Immaculate Conception Parish, we partner with parents to prepare students for lives as Catholic leaders. As Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit, we focus on formation through prayer, message, concern, and service to community. We teach students to live a life that embodies these values, is centered in Christ, and strives for their greatest academic potential. They will experience a world around them rich in God's love.

Class of 2022



Contents

A Message from Our Pastor † 4

A Message from Our Principal † 5

School Board Highlights † 6

Parents' Club Highlights † 8

Academic Highlights † 10

Athletic Highlights † 12

Catholic Faith in Action † 14

Extracurricular Activities † 16

Alumni Highlights † 18



Mrs. Linley, Father James,
Parochial Vicar, and Mrs. Meyer

A Message From Our Pastor



VERY REVEREND THOMAS L. PAUL, V.F. K.H.S.
Pastor
Immaculate Conception Parish



Fr. Tom explaining the parts of the mass and the vestments priests wear to 3rd grade.



8th grade Ribbon Mass

Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Families,

Congratulations! We have once again celebrated an extraordinary school year here at IC! Our gradual movement away from the pandemic has led us to appreciate one another more than ever. For the most part, people have been very excited to reunite with one another. The children in our school have certainly followed this direction.

The roots of ICGS go back to 1899. It was then that a one-room school was built with a curtain down the middle dividing the two classrooms. The original location of the school was just south of Church Street on the east side of the street, next to the blue house. The first priest lived in that house after the parish was started in 1876. Much has changed over the years, and yet much has stayed the same. IC has always been about providing quality Catholic education for our

children. The Sisters of St. Agnes followed by hundreds of lay men and women have all worked tirelessly and with much love to do so for them. Our current faculty and administration have gone above and beyond for the welfare of the school. The fruits of these efforts through the years have shown by the impact left on the lives of the graduates. The Class of 2022 is no exception. The members of this class have been able to achieve tremendous success. They are well prepared for high school and will certainly do well because of the foundation they have received. Likewise, the ICGS Class of 2018 who have just graduated from high school this year continue to show their success, especially by being admitted to the universities and colleges that they will be attending. As one of them mentioned, "I would never have gotten into my first school choice if I did not have an ICGS educational background."

One of the comments that people frequently make about our school community is that it feels very much

like a family. Relationships are made here, not only between the students, but also amongst the adults. This family atmosphere is evident by the tremendous number of hours of volunteerism that constantly happen. Thanks to all of you for being so generous with your time and talent. Likewise, may God bless abundantly our administration, faculty, and staff. The support given for the many parent groups is a significant part of our community. The efforts of our school board, parents' club, and 1900 Club are at the heart of our school's great accomplishments. May God bless and reward all of you for whatever part you have played for the children at IC.

IC is a Catholic Christian community called to build God's Kingdom in our midst. May God bless all of you with happy and safe summers.

We are IC!
Very Rev. Thomas Paul

A Message From Our Principal

Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Families,

As I look back on the 2021-2022 school year at Immaculate Conception Grade School, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for our students, staff, and parents and all we have accomplished. We began the year in August with our theme of KINDNESS and we asked our ICGS family to "Throw Kindness Around Like Confetti". After the hardships and break from the normal of the previous years we wanted to remember that all it takes is one act of kindness to change someone's world. Year after year we encourage our students to explore and grow their Catholic faith, to build a strong character by challenging them in various ways and to act courageously. This year was no exception and our ICGS students, like always, rose to the occasion. My heart fills with pride as I see the goodness of God reflected in so many facets of our ICGS daily life. I love watching our student's kindness shine through service projects (like our annual collection to benefit

St. Mary's Mission School in Redlake, MN), and through the respect they show each other (like our 8th graders reading with our 1st graders). I believe when our older students share their own faith and goodness and teach Jesus' love to our younger students God's truth truly shines and we can make a difference in the world.

I cannot express my gratitude for all the efforts of our parents this year. Their support, creativity, compassion, and willingness to take on new challenges have not only exceeded expectations, but they have helped foster that Catholic Spirit and willingness to serve in their children. May they be blessed for their generosity of time, talent, and treasure.

May God and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception continue to bless the work of Immaculate Conception Grade School.



Mrs. Linley cheering on the students during the Walk-a-thon



Mrs. Wachholder, Mrs. Linley and Mrs. Meyer during Teacher Appreciation Week



MRS. CATHY LINLEY
Principal,
Immaculate Conception
Grade School



Thank you to our wonderful teachers and staff for keeping our kids safe and in school! Thank you for your patience, care, love and kindness!

The Doucet Family

School Board Highlights



ANDY DENEKE
President
School Board



**Thank You ICGS School Board
For All You Do**

Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Families,

It has been my privilege and honor to have served the past three years with my fellow board members on the ICGS School Board. These three years presented our school with unprecedented challenges, but our collective response to those challenges showcased the dedication and commitment of our ICGS administration, faculty, staff, coaches, and parents to providing the very best Catholic education for our children. My wife Fran and I are thankful that our family is part of the ICGS family, and we are grateful to all of you for having made these years so special for us.

I'd like to share some key areas in which the school board, in partnership with the ICGS administration, has been involved this year:

- † Launched the new ICGS school website
- † Attended Parish Finance Committee meetings and Parents' Club meetings
- † Continued partnership with the ICGS Parents' Club in best utilizing parent and local business donations
- † Supported the ICGS Development Office in marketing strategies and enrollment recruitment, including hosting the Prospective Parents' Night and serving as a resource for prospective families
- † Welcomed new families via phone, email and in-person communications
- † Marketed the "Empower Illinois" tuition tax credit program to parents interested in taking advantage of its tax benefits while providing scholarship opportunities for families in need of assistance

† Conducted the 2021-2022 Annual Appeal to raise funds for the enhancement of the ICGS educational environment such as the renovation and upgrading of classrooms and other school facilities

† Upon meeting the \$1,000,000 valuation threshold in the ICGS Education Endowment Fund, utilized the first-ever profit distribution from the Endowment as a special bonus that was paid in the fall of 2021 to those teachers returning for the 2021-2022 school year in appreciation of their dedication to ICGS

I would like to thank my fellow school board members for their dedication and willingness to share their time, talents, and effort for the benefit of our school, with special recognition to Alexis Bolt who will be retiring from the school board this year after three years of service. Finally, I would like to especially thank our Past President Marcie Wolbeck for her personal support and guidance throughout this year. Marcie will also be concluding her board duties this year but will continue her service to our school community within her role in the ICGS Development Office.

Finally, on behalf of the ICGS School Board, I would like to thank our priests, administration, teachers, staff, and fellow parents for their contributions this year to the continued success of Immaculate Conception Grade School. I am honored and proud to be part of such a dedicated and generous community

We are IC!

School Board Members 2021†2022



**MARCIE
WOLBECK**
Past President



**ARCHIE
LEYNES**
Vice President



**ALEXIS
BOLT**



**SEAN
FARNAN**



**MARK
FRATELLA**



**ANNA
NEHS**



**KRISTIN
SPIERING**



**JOHN
DUCKWORTH**

time for goodbyes...
The Spizzirri Family

Favorite ICGS Memory:
Friday school mass; attending school with our 7 cousins; fun field trips; participating in sports and school plays; Halloween Haedown; Girl Scouts; Science Fairs

What will we miss?
The people; seeing our friends that we grew up with everyday and those who taught us well

Words of Wisdom for Younger Families:
Enjoy every moment because it goes by in the blink of an eye; take advantage of the many opportunities ICGS provides; show kindness to everyone to help make ICGS a positive place and stay connected to our wonderful church

Not Goodbye, See you soon...
The Spizzirri Family

**2022 ICGS
Graduating Families**

*We will miss you,
Spizzirri Family, and ask
God to bless you always.*
#onceaknightalwaysaknight



**Graduating Family
Recognition Via Social Media**



First Holy Communion

♦♦ We feel so blessed that we have been able to be a part of the ICGS community. The dedicated faculty and staff have not only provided a well rounded education, but have been examples to our children of what it means to be Catholic in today's world – kind, loving, faith-filled, mission driven. The parents and families of ICGS have also contributed in so many ways to exemplify what it means to be 'community'.

The Farnan Family

Parents' Club Highlights



NOEL TALLUTO
President
Parents' Club



Thank You ICGS Parents' Club
For All You Do



Taco Truck for end of year
Teacher Appreciation Lunch



2022 It's Your Lucky Knight
Dinner Dance



1900 Club Annual Golf Outing

Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Families,

It was another great year at ICGS! Once again, school was fully in person, athletics and extra-curriculars returned and overall, our school year ended on a positive note.

As a school community, we continued to be appreciative of the efforts of the school and teachers to continue to instruct our children with care and focus. There were still challenges to be addressed and we were thankful for the extra work and planning that went into this.

Importantly, we must also thank YOU, our generous families, and friends, for the unbelievable financial support for our school again this year. Your generosity led to achieving 150% of our goal for the second year in a row. **Together, we raised \$317,000!** This is \$117,000 more than our goal. We could not have done this without YOU - thank you on behalf of the kids, teachers, and school. This will allow us to provide support in the areas we typically help, namely Operating Costs, Teacher Bonuses, the Endowment, Tuition Assistance, and the Annual Appeal. In addition, this year, we were able to set aside some special project funds for immediate use. iPads to enhance the academic experience will be purchased

for Pre-K and Kindergarten by the Parent's Club and much needed improvements in the stage sound system and stage backdrop are planned.

We could not have achieved this without the countless hours invested by our amazing volunteers! Thanks to all the volunteers that contributed their time and talent to the Parent's Club this year. You truly go above and beyond for the kids! As we look to the future, I am confident that ICGS will continue to grow and offer our children a wonderful catholic education.

**Thank you for your support
of our grade school!**
We are IC!



**Dads Work the Christmas
Tree Lot**



**Spirit Wear For Sale at
Marcia May Fun Run**



2022 Walk-a-thon



Daddy-Daughter Dance



**6th Grade Christian Symbols
Made In Art Class**

Academic Highlights

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Several 8th Grade students were awarded high school scholarships including:

IC Catholic Prep Entrance Exam Scholarship (3)

IC Catholic Prep Golden Knight Scholarship Math (6)

6th Grade Poetry Tea



St Immaculate Conception Grade School

we have a reputation for setting high academic standards at every grade level. We want our students prepared for their transition to high school, as such, our teachers incorporate time management, organization, self-discipline, memorization, public speaking, and group and individual study. Our curriculum is aligned with the learning standards of both the Diocese of Joliet and the State of Illinois.

While our expectations are high, we understand that not everyone is on the same level, so we have created support programs to meet the needs of our students at every academic level in the core subjects of Math and Reading. Our administration constantly works with our Academic Support Teachers and Homeroom Teachers to assess students in each grade level as we consider the additional programs needed.

Throughout the year, we assess our students using different tools so improvement can be

identified and needs can be addressed. The following standardized tests and benchmarks were utilized this year:

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade

Reading and Math Easy Computer-based Measures (CBMs)

1st Grade - 7th Grade

Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat)

3rd Grade - 7th Grade

Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)

3rd Grade - 8th Grade

Northwest Evaluation Association for Math, Reading, and Language Arts (MAP)

5th Grade and 8th Grade

Assessment of Children Religious Education (ACRE)

7th Grade

U.S. Constitution Test

8th Grade

Illinois Constitution Test
High School Placement Exam



4th Grade Parade of States



8th Grade Science Lab



7th Grade Science Fair



PreK-4 students with the baby chicks they hatched



3rd Grade Mock Election

Catholic Faith in Action

Service Spotlight



IC Pack 25 Cub Scouts

Continuing the tradition of service and leadership, IC Pack 25 Cub scouts participated in many service activities this year including:

“Birthday Bag” kits for the children of the IC Food Pantry guests

Donated popcorn to the IC Food Pantry guests

Sent Birthday Cards to the young IC Parish Parishioners with summer birthdays

Volunteered at Feed My Starving Children to help pack meals for kids in need

At ICSS we educate and nurture the faith formation of our students so that they not only learn our beliefs but put those beliefs into action. We believe that faith requires a response, for it permeates every aspect of our lives, every decision that we make, and every action that we take. From the curriculum to the community, to the classroom, to the athletics court, our Faith is the foundation from which we build.

Our students grow in their faith through classroom instruction, daily prayer and weekly mass and through service to others. Throughout the year, our school community initiates and takes part in a variety of outreach activities to serve those in need. *The following are just some of the service projects are students our students participated in:*

- ✝ Collected Food for the IC Food Pantry
- ✝ Collected toys for the ABC 7 News & U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive
- ✝ Made cards for alumni, local police, fire, and healthcare workers
- ✝ Participated in the IC Parish Lenten outreach project to raise funds for St. Mary's Mission School, a school located on a now closed reservation of the Ojibwe Native American Tribe
- ✝ Collected “Souper Bowl” canned soup in honor of the Super Bowl
- ✝ Collected toothbrushes and other hygiene products for Chicago Public Schools
- ✝ Collected gift cards for Thanksgiving for the IC Parish outreach
- ✝ Collected Easter basket donations for IC Christian Ministry Outreach
- ✝ Created items to make gift bags for the homeless



PreK-4 and Fr. Jerry from St. Mary's Mission



First Holy Communion

Making History

As they will be the first classes to be Confirmed and Graduate in the newly renovated Sacred Heart Chapel, our ICGS 7th and 8th graders were invited to sign the floor.



"Souper Bowl" Collection



May Crowning



Living Stations of the Cross

Athletic Highlights



BRAD JOHNSON
Athletic Director
Immaculate Conception Grade School

ICGS was excited to bring back our athletic opportunities and even introduce boys volleyball at the 5th grade and 6th grade levels during the 2021-2022 school year.

TV Football



IC-VIS Cross Country

5 Boys SPL (Suburban Parochial League) Conference Champions

8 Girls SPL Conference Champions; State Qualifiers

Football

JV SPL League 5th Place

Varsity SPL League 4th Place

Volleyball

5 Girls SPL League

6 Girls SPL League 3rd Place

7 Girls SPL League

8 Girls SPL League

5 Boys SPL League

6 Boys SPL League 2nd Place Conference

Basketball

5 Girls

6 Girls SPL League

7 Girls (A) SPL League

7 Girls (B) SPL League

8 Girls

SPL League 2nd Place

5 Boys (Blue) SPL Tournament Champions

5 Boys (White) SPL undefeated season, Conference Champions

6 Boys SPL League

7 Boys SPL League

8 Boys (A) SPL League 3rd Place

8 Boys (Blue) SPL League

8 Boys (White) SPL League

Track & Field

SPL League



8th Grade Girls Basketball



Varsity Boys Football



6th Boys Volleyball



5th Grade Girls Volleyball



Boys Cross Country



6th Grade Girls Volleyball

♦♦ We have truly been blessed to send our kids to Immaculate Conception Grade School. Through the years, we have come to value and appreciate all that a catholic education at ICGS has to offer our kids. Not only does ICGS provide them with an exemplary academic learning environment, but they also offer the religious aspect that is so important to our family. Learning kindness, caring for others, and giving back are important to their happiness and success throughout their lives. The teachers, staff, priests, and parents of ICGS have given us a loving environment and place for our kids to grow, learn, and excel throughout the years.

The Mindak Family

Extracurricular Highlights

Our ICUS students are encouraged to expand and explore their talents, creativity, and passions outside the classroom and off of the playing field. We offer our students an array of extracurricular activities that allow them to try something new or to grow their interests and talents.

Mentor relationships are formed with teachers who serve as moderators, as well as the older students who mentor the younger students who participate in the various activities.

The following are a sampling of the extracurricular activities that were offered this past year.

- ✝ Altar Serving
- ✝ Art Club
- ✝ Band
- ✝ Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- ✝ Chess Club
- ✝ Choir
- ✝ Destination Imagination
- ✝ Drama Club
- ✝ Junior High Dance Class
- ✝ High School Entrance Exam Prep
- ✝ Safety Patrol
- ✝ Spring Musical
- ✝ Student Ambassadors
- ✝ Student Government
- ✝ Talent Show
- ✝ Yearbook



Altar Serving



Junior High Dance Class



**Student Ambassadors Spring
Campus Clean up**



Talent Show

✦✦ ICGS is a best-in-class Catholic school, community and family. Our children, second generation ICGS students, have felt at home here since their earliest days in Pre-K3. From the classroom to school mass, they've experienced love, guidance and consistency in a time when that's needed more than ever. We are endlessly grateful to ICGS for wrapping its arms around our children while showing them how to shine a light in the world.

The Brueggen Family



Show Knights A Musical Revue



Chess Club

Destination Imagination Highlights

8 Teams participated under various categories at the Regional Tournament in March. All were invited to participate in the Globals Competition in June.

3rd Grade

DI Dinamite

2nd place at Regionals

Knight Racers

9th place at Regionals



3rd/4th Grade

Seal Team 7

12th place at Regionals

4th Grade

D.I. Frenzy

3rd place at Regionals & Highest Instant Challenge Score Award

5th Grade

DI Darklings

5th place at Regionals



Fuzzy McZoo

10th place at Regionals & Highest Instant Challenge Score Award

6th Grade

Destination Procrastination

1st Place at Regionals & Renaissance Award for Outstanding Skill in Engineering and Design
10th place at GLOBALS

Salty Seagulls

4th place at Regionals



Alumni Highlights

**Once a Knight,
Always a Knight!**
Our Alumni continue
to make us proud, year after
year and never cease to
amaze us!

The members of the Class of
2018 are no exception and will
be heading off to a myriad of
colleges and universities this fall
including:

Florida Atlantic University
University of Michigan (2)
University of Wisconsin (6)

Illinois State University
University of Iowa (2)
Alberta Jr. Hockey League
University of Dallas
University of Dayton (2)
University of Missouri
Bradley University
University of Arizona (2)
Marquette University
University of Notre Dame
University of Illinois (4)
Clemson University
Michigan State University

University of Pittsburgh
University of Utah (Fall of 2023)
Cleveland Institute of Art
Loyola University
Saint Mary's College (2)
DePaul University
University of Colorado
Eastern Michigan University
Miami University
Washington College
University of Maryland
Saint Louis University

Class of 2018 Accolades

National Merit Finalist (1)

Jessica Morey will attend the
University of Maryland

National Merit Commended Scholar (1)

Timothy Paul will attend the
University of Illinois

Illinois State Scholar (12)

Annalise Belzile, Olivia Buscemi, Katelin
Doughty, Faith Laluya, Maeve Maietta, Julia
Moran, Jessica Morey, Margaret O'Brien,
Ryan Pajak, Timothy Paul, Grace Stewart,
Maurice Tobiano

ICCP's Monsignor Plunkett

Distinguished Scholar (1)

Margaret O'Brien will attend
St. Mary's College

Chick Evans Scholar (1)

Kyle Mayr will attend the University of
Missouri- Columbia and study Optometry



Maurice Tobiano ('18)
gave the commencement
address at Hinsdale
Central's graduation.



Grace Stewart ('18) sang and **Leo
Macariola ('18)** played piano at the
York HS commencement ceremony



Louis Kamienski ('18) will
be playing hockey for
the Alberta Jr. Hockey
League

✦ ICGS has made a huge impact on me as a child and has shaped me into the human I am today. I definitely
would not be the determined, hardworking, and motivated individual I am today without the rigorous
education and prominent values IC instilled into me each day. I am beyond grateful for the Friday morning
masses, the student council process, and the countless fun activities such as dances or clubs we took part in
to further prepare us for our futures beyond ICGS.

Katelin Doughty - Class of 2018



Kaitlin Cronin Steele ('98) and Tim Hauert ('01) have children who are classmates. We have over 30 ICGS alumni who have chosen to give their children the gift of a faith-based education that they too received



2022 Distinguished Graduate Recipients:
Dr. Alexander Javois ('76) and Susan Koch ('67)



Regan Wright ('19) received the 2022 Best Actress Award from the Broadway in Chicago Illinois High School Musical Theatre Awards



Class of 1970 Held their 51st Reunion in October 2021



ICGS Classes of '16, '17, and '18 at the College T-shirt Mass celebrated by Fr. Conway (Class of 1960)

Alumni Weddings



Matt Shannon ('06)
And
Katrina Skarzynski

August 2021

Shannon Healy ('07) married Stefan Paul

October 2021

Ryan Shannon ('04) married Emily Monasterio

May 2022

Francesca Cozzi ('07) married Matthew Collins

Jack Libert ('09) married Jennifer Wojtowicz

June 2022

Ali Julian ('09) married Michael Romano

Matt Shannon ('06) married Katrina Skarzynski

Upcoming Alumni Weddings include:

Brendan O'Brien ('12) and Sabrina Vorn in August

Michael Shannon ('09) and Emily Westlake in September

Christie Hillsman ('07) and Max von Ohlen in September

Katlyn Warner ('09) and Patrick Regan in October

ICGS Alumni inducted into the IC Catholic Prep Hall of Fame in September of 2021

Christine (Norgle) Loewer ('81)
Karen Falduto ('96)
Joe Mastrino ('99)
Matt Purdom ('05)



Immaculate Conception Grade School

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In Memory of
Joanne Gabert

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#icgskindness