

Immaculate Conception Grade School



Year in Review 2022-2023



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 2023



*Mary,
Our Mother*



*Bless and Protect Your
IC Children and Families*



<i>A Message from Our Pastor</i>	☆ 4
<i>A Message from Our Co-Principals</i>	☆ 5
<i>School Board Highlights</i>	☆ 6
<i>Parents' Club Highlights</i>	☆ 8
<i>Academic Highlights</i>	☆ 10
<i>Athletic Highlights</i>	☆ 12
<i>Catholic Faith in Action</i>	☆ 14
<i>Extracurricular Activities</i>	☆ 16
<i>Alumni Highlights</i>	☆ 18



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

A Message From Our Pastor



Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Families,

I'm writing this letter on the First of June, the last school day of the year. It's amazing how quickly time flies. It seems as though it was just yesterday that the new school year was beginning. Even more so for me, it feels like it was just a short time ago when I gave the graduating class of 2023 their diplomas upon graduating from kindergarten. In the busyness of life, time passes very quickly. Fortunately, here at IC much good happens all the time.

Throughout the year, many celebrations take place in our community. It is certainly a great joy to celebrate First Eucharist. I also find great happiness being part of the Confirmation liturgies when our 8th graders are blest by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Believe it or not, we have four different celebrations of graduation for our grade school students. All of them including the 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, 5-year-olds, and 8th graders are awarded some type of certificate. For every one of these age groups, it is very inspiring to witness the growth that has taken place in the lives of these children. As I gave diplomas to the 8th graders, I very gratefully

remembered how much they have changed over the years. Without a doubt, their time spent at ICGS has truly had a very positive influence upon their lives. The level of their **maturity** is beyond measure. Likewise, the **knowledge** that they have gained has obviously prepared them for high school. Most importantly, their years at ICGS have helped them to grow within our **faith**.

Often people say that ICGS is a very special place. As you read this statement, I'm sure that you will agree that my words are true. It's amazing when I come across alumni from our school how deeply they remain connected to members of their class. They may have forgotten some of the things that they learned, but without a doubt they will never forget the relationships that they formed and how they are part of one another.

ONCE A KNIGHT ALWAYS A KNIGHT!

I'd like to express my great thanks to the administration, faculty, and staff for lovingly, generously, and professionally sharing their talents with our students. The commitment and hard work of so many people truly makes a difference in this school. Likewise, the ongoing support of the parents who offer so very much of themselves makes a

great difference. Our school board very faithfully offers guidance and support for the continued success of our school. The many efforts of our parents' club are beyond measure. I've said again and again how grateful I am that such a group exists that truly cares about helping to make our school the very best that it can be. The athletic board also works very closely with our staff to oversee the strong athletic program offered here.

As you read through the pages of this report, I'm sure smiles will come upon your faces, for you will recognize what a great year this has been. Thanks to all of you for helping to make this happen. May God bless you abundantly.

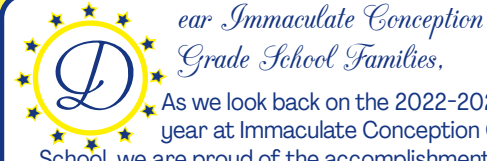
Very Rev. Thomas L. Paul
Pastor



**Catholic Schools Week
Bingo**

*Mary, Mother of Jesus
pray for us*

A Message From Our Co-Principals



Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Families,

As we look back on the 2022-2023 school year at Immaculate Conception Grade School, we are proud of the accomplishments of our students, staff and parents and thankful for all the blessings the ICGS community has received.

We began the year with our theme of God says you are unique, special, lovely, precious, strong, chosen, and many more attributes. We wanted to remind everyone of the special gifts that God has provided for us and how they help us get through our everyday lives.

As Principals, we saw evidence of our students using their special gifts and talents to make ICGS the special place that it is many times each day. Whether it was a kind smile, volunteering to help when needed, reaching out to a student who was having a tough day or praying together at mass on Fridays, our students continue to inspire and amaze us with their God given gifts. The foundation of our Catholic faith in all that we do at ICGS is unmistakable in the everyday actions of our staff and students. Our parents also continue to impress us with the time, talent and treasure you tirelessly give to ICGS each year.

A huge thank you to our parents and benefactors,

whose constant love and generosity continue to allow ICGS to thrive. We are blessed with your support each year and as you can see in this Year in Review, the 2022-2023 school year, like many before, was a great success. Our students continue to excel and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments in the classroom and the way our staff is able to challenge each one of our students. As you will see in this publication, beyond the classroom, our students are also excelling in the various service opportunities, clubs, athletic teams and religious ministries that we are able to offer.

The world has changed dramatically over the last few years, but the gifts that God provides for us are the same and we use these gifts to make the world a special place. ICGS is one of those special places and without the love of our students, staff, and parents we would not have been able to accomplish all that we did this year. ICGS is stronger than ever and as our school grows and flourishes so do all that have a part in this blessed school.

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

Mrs. Cathy Linley and Mrs. Sharon Meyer
Co-Principals



**Father Jeremy, Father Tom, Father Cerna
Trunk or Treat**



**Teachers help out at the
Jr. High Dance**



Mrs. Wachholder, Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Meyer



MRS. CATHY LINLEY & MRS. SHARON MEYER
Co- Principals,
Immaculate Conception Grade School



*Mary, The Immaculate
Conception Pray for us*

School Board Highlights

Mary, Mother of Comfort and Understanding



pray for us

Dear Immaculate Conception Grade School Families,
It has been an honor and a privilege to serve along with my fellow board members on the ICGS School Board for the past three years and as the ICGS School Board President this past year. Unlike my first two years on the Board, this year has been a welcome return to “normalcy” due to the continued dedication and commitment of our ICGS administration, faculty, staff, coaches, volunteers, and parents. My wife Myra and I are blessed that our family can contribute to and be a part of the larger ICGS family and Catholic community.

I'd like to share some key areas in which the School Board, in partnership with the ICGS administration, assisted with this school year:

- ★ Welcomed new families via social media spotlights, phone, email, and in-person communications.
- ★ Assisted in the process of hiring an onsite security firm for the IC campus.
- ★ Attended Parish Finance Committee, Faith Formation, and Parents' Club meetings.
- ★ Continued partnership with the ICGS Parents' Club in best utilizing generous parent and businesses donations and sponsorships.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Supported the transition from the Co-Principal structure back to the historic Principal/Assistant Principal structure.
- ★ Supported the retirement of Mrs. Linley and the hiring of Mrs. Meyer as the incoming Principal.

- ★ Assisted in the recruitment and interview process for a new Assistant Principal.
- ★ 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 2022-2023 Annual Appeal to raise funds for the enhancement of ICGS.
- ★ Utilized the profit distribution from the ICGS Education Endowment Fund as a special bonus that was paid in the fall of 2022 to those teachers returning for the 2022-2023 school year in appreciation of their dedication to ICGS.

I am very grateful for the collaboration and efforts of our outstanding team of Board members. Each member's dedication and willingness to share their time and talents benefited our school in so many ways. I would also like to highlight our retiring members, Sean Farnan and Mark Fratella, for their immeasurable impact during their three years of service. Finally, our Past President, Andy Denekas, is concluding his duties after four years of serving during unprecedented times. Thank you Andy for your outstanding leadership and guidance as well as your personal support over the last year.

Finally, on behalf of the ICGS School Board, thank you to our priests, administrators, teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents. Our IC community has achieved another successful school year and is primed for continued success. We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful Catholic school and community.

Archie Leynes, School Board President



ARCHIE LEYNES
President
School Board

School Board Members 2022 ★ 2023



Graduating Family Recognition via Social Media



Fall Teacher Retreat ICGS and ICCP



School Board Members at ICGS Faculty and Staff Christmas Party

In a tumultuous world where priorities are often misordered, we feel very blessed to send our children to a safe place every day where Christian values are placed on level terms with academic excellence. Thank you to the entire IC Leadership team for another wonderful year.
Go Knights!
The Severs Family



Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Meyer in Springfield for Empower advocacy



ANDY DENEKAS
Past President



ANNA NEHS
Vice President



SEAN FARNAN



MARK FRATELLA



JOHN DUCKWORTH



KRISTIN SPIERING



MATTHEW SEVERS



MARJORIE BOTTARI

Parents' Club Highlights

Mary, Queen of Families



St. Patrick's Day Parade



Explore More Days



Parent Volunteer Mass



1900 Club Annual Golf Outing



2023 It's Your Lucky Knight Dinner Dance



PK4 Room Parents



Trunk or Treat



What a wonderful school year at ICGS! We have the best leadership, faculty and staff, students and families. This is a very special place, and many people work together with loving care to make it so.

Thank you to our generous families, friends and sponsors for supporting the Parents' Club's efforts to raise funds for our school. In the 2022-2023 school year, through our various initiatives, **the Parents' Club raised approximately \$265,000 to benefit ICGS** and directly impact our students' education and experience. These funds were allocated to the school's operating budget (\$115,000), teacher bonuses (\$94,000), security initiatives (\$25,000) Annual Appeal (\$11,500), Endowment Fund (\$10,000) and tuition assistance (\$10,000).

In addition to the critically important Catholic education and high academic standards, our families often cite our community as a top reason they send their children to ICGS. The Parents' Club – to which all IC parents belong – is a key contributor to this community. In the 2022-2023 school year, our parents lent their time, talents, and treasure to several community-building activities, including: Back-to-School Bash, Halloween Trunk or Treat, "It's Your Lucky Knight" Dinner Dance, newcomer mentoring, prayer group, community meals, and special gatherings like Oktoberfest, grade-based swimming pool parties, and the Daddy Daughter Dance and Mom Son Prom.

Additionally, we organized activities to enhance the students' learning and experience: Book Fair, Cardio Club, Destination Imagination, hot food days, junior high dance classes, classroom enrichment and fine arts, sacrament receptions and graduation activities, classroom parties, an end-of-year-picnic, and the fabulous school play, Willy Wonka Jr!

We are truly blessed to have such a vibrant, loving and engaged community.

Thank you to Father Tom, Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Meyer, our faculty and staff, and school board for your leadership, partnership and loving care in everything you do.

Shauna Brueggen, ICGS Parents' Club President



SHAUNA BRUEGGEN
President
Parents' Club



Grandparents Day



2023 Walk-a-thon



Christmas Tree Lot

Academic Highlights

Mary, Source of Guidance

pray for us



At ICGS 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

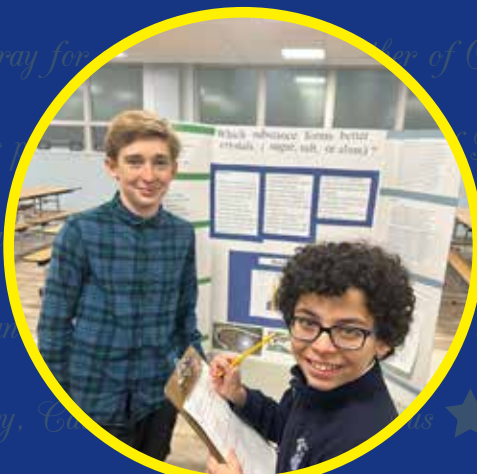
8th Grade
Illinois Constitution Test

High School Placement Exam
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

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

IC Catholic Prep Golden Knight Scholarship (2)

Fenwick St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship (2)



7th Grade Science Fair



Kindergarten 100 Days Celebration



6th Grade Poetry Tea



4th Grade Beatitudes Project



PreK-4 students with the baby chicks they hatched



4th Grade Christmas Around the World



Pep Rally



3rd Grade Wax Museum



Spelling Bee



5th Grade Heritage Fair



Homeless Collection



St. Mary's Mission Collection



Living Nativity



At ICGS 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 are reminded daily of the many blessings bestowed upon them by God. From that awareness flows a sense of responsibility and discipleship. Our students not only pray for those in need but they realize from the earliest stages of their education that they are called to action. 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
- ★ Made cards for alumni, IC priests, deacons and 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 books for Father Cerna's brother to start a children's library in the Philippines.
- ★ Collected gift cards for Thanksgiving for the IC Parish outreach
- ★ Collected gift cards for Christmas for the IC Parish outreach
- ★ Collected Easter basket donations for IC Christian Ministry Outreach
- ★ Created items to make gift bags for the homeless



Faith Family



Living Stations of the Cross



All Saints Day



ICCP students (2 alumni) helped our ICGS students every week for their theology class.



7th Grade Made Blankets for a Shelter



"Souper Bowl" Collection



Thanksgiving Prayer Service ICGS and ICCP



First Holy Communion



First Grade Christmas Tree at Wilder Park

Athletic Highlights



Mr. Brad Johnson
Athletic Director
Immaculate Conception Grade School

We are so proud of our ICGS athletes for the 2022-2023 year. Each athlete developed and grew as an individual and as part of a team. We were excited to introduce boys volleyball at the 7th and 8th grade levels this year. We want to thank the parents and students for their hard work and dedication and look forward to the 2023-2024 year.

Go Knights!

IC-VIS Cross Country	5 Boys SPL League	6 Boys (A) SPL League Conference Champions
Boys SPL (Suburban Parochial League) 6th Place State	6 Boys SPL League 2nd Place Conference	6 Boys (B) SPL League Conference Champions
Girls SPL Conference	7 Boys SPL League	7 Boys SPL League
Football	8 Boys SPL League	8 Boys (A) SPL League 3rd Place
JV League 5th Place	Basketball	8 Boys (Blue) SPL League
Varsity League 4th Place	5 Girls SPL League	8 Boys (White) SPL League
Volleyball	6 Girls SPL League	Track & Field
5 Girls SPL League	7 Girls (A) SPL League	SPL League
6 Girls SPL League	7 Girls (B) SPL League	
7 Girls SPL League	8 Girls SPL League 2nd Place	
8 Girls SPL League	5 Boys (Blue) SPL League	
	5 Boys (White) SPL league	



JV Football



6th Grade Boys Basketball Champions



JV Boys Track and Field



6th Grade Boys Volleyball



5th Grade Girls Volleyball



IC/Vis Boys Cross Country 6th Place at State



8th Grade Varsity Football



JV Girls Track and Field



8th Grade Boys Volleyball



8th Grade Girls Basketball

ICGS is an extension of our home and has become a trusted investment in our children where they have exceedingly prospered through education based in faith, academics and community. We are incredibly proud to call ICGS home and look forward to the future that our children will be creating and leading in as a result!

The Sullivan Family

Extracurricular Highlights



Student Council



Varsity Choir



Willy Wonka Jr.

Our *HCGS* 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
- ★ Math Minds
- ★ Safety Patrol
- ★ Science Club
- ★ Spring Musical
- ★ Student Ambassadors
- ★ Student Government
- ★ Talent Show
- ★ Yearbook



Talent Show



Drama Club



Altar Serving



Band



Safety Patrol

Destination Imagination Highlights

8 Teams participated under various categories at the Regional Tournament in March. 3 Teams qualified for Globals and did exceptionally well. Great Job!

**3rd/4th Grade
DI Dynamite**
3rd place at Regionals; qualified for State earned Renaissance Award at State



**5th Grade
Three Improviteers**
1st place at Regionals; 1st place at State; 3rd place at GLOBALS



**7th Grade
The Beanstalkers**
1st place at Regionals; 2nd place at State; qualified for GLOBALS



**6th/7th Grade
InDiana Jones**
1st place at Regionals; 2nd place at State; qualified for GLOBALS



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 ICGS Class of 2019 are no exception and will be heading off to a myriad of colleges and universities. Here a just a few of the colleges they will be attending:

University of Tennessee
University of Michigan
University of Wisconsin
University of Iowa
University of Dayton
University of Missouri
University of Arkansas
Marquette University
University of Illinois
Loyola Marymount University
University of Florida

Saint Mary's College
Saint Louis University
Adrian College
Northwestern University
Michigan State University
University of San Diego
Ashland University
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Loras College
DePaul University



ICGS Class of 2019 College T-shirt Mass



Grant Schleiter ('19) was the Student Speaker at his commencement ceremony

ICGS Alumni recipients of the Monsignor Plunkett Distinguished Scholar Award

Ava Buscemi
Cassandra Levy
Ava Meurer
Ricardo Suarez
Eva Wojcik



3 ICGS alumni were recognized as ICCP's March Students of the Month

ICGS created a life long community that I will cherish forever. ICGS instilled the values of hard work, faith, and kindness and many other qualities that I will always remember.

Mary Grace Ranieri
Class of 2019



2022-2023 Distinguished Graduate Recipient Joanne Gabert (posthumously). Her husband and children accepted on her behalf.

My

most important Thank You goes to the family I share our days with - our Students. I have been honored to be your principal and I have loved being with you every day. You have shared so many lessons with me -enlightening me on many subjects - some I really needed to learn about and maybe a few I didn't need to hear about. You have given me so many gifts through the years: the smiles, the greetings, offering to help, taking care of others; you filled my heart with love. I know how blessed I am because I have had the best job in the world. Always remember how special you are - just the way God created you, share your gifts with others, and stay close to Jesus.

I love you all! Thank you.

Mrs. Cathy Linley

Thank You Mrs Linley!
Thank you for over 18 years of dedication and service to the students of ICGS!



Thank you for guiding, motivating, instructing and modeling qualities of excellence to the ICGS staff and the numerous students and families that you have touched over the years. As the ICGS Principal for nearly two decades, you not only successfully led IC Grade School through transformations and challenges, but you did so with grace and integrity.

Under your tutelage, many positive changes have been implemented, such as:

- ★ creating new academic programs and instituting a leveled learning model in math and reading
- ★ expanding the preschool program from one classroom to four
- ★ hiring a robust and talented staff of teachers and support staff to meet the needs of the students
- ★ increasing the social worker support
- ★ creating a technology lab, math lab and reading resource room, that allowed IC to keep it's reputation as a leader and innovator in the diocese and amongst other Catholic schools, while at the same time, staying true to the foundation of our Catholic faith at the center of the education here.

You have left an imprint of the hearts of all who have been blessed to know you and will be remembered for so many things -

- ★ Your warmth and bright smile that could light up any room
- ★ Your strong Catholic faith and ability to incorporate it into every facet of ICGS
- ★ Your positivity and calming presence in every possible situation
- ★ the way you show the utmost respect and poise in all that you do and
- ★ how you always have the best interests of the students at heart just to name a few.

A few years ago, you quoted L. Frank Baum from the Wizard of Oz in your Commencement address by saying "A heart is not judged by how much you love; but rather by how much you are loved by others." We have all been the lucky recipients of your love over the years and it is our hope that you feel the immeasurable amount of love that is being shared with you from everyone past and present at ICGS.



Mrs. Linley's Retirement Mass

Mary, Mother of Jesus pray for us ★ Mary, The Immaculate Conception pray for us ★ Mary, Mother Most Pure pray for us ★ Mary, Queen of Angels pray for us ★ Mary, Mother of the Church pray for us ★ Mary, Dearest of Mothers pray for us ★ Mary, Source of Guidance pray for us ★ Mary, Gentle Woman pray for us ★ Mary, Cause of our Joy pray for us ★ Mary, Poor and Lonely pray for us ★ Immaculate Conception pray for us ★ Mary, Mother Most Pure pray for us ★ Mother Mary, Gentle in Mercy pray for us ★ Mary, Dear God pray for us ★ Mary, Dearest of Mothers pray for us ★ Mother Mary, Gentle in Mercy pray for us ★ Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us ★ Mary, Queen of Peace pray for us ★ Mary, Source of Guidance pray for us ★ Mary, Our Quiet Light pray for us ★ Mary, Queen of Apostles and Martyrs pray for us ★ Mother Mary, Gentle in Mercy pray for us ★ Mother Mary, Cause of our Joy pray for us ★ Mary, Friend of the Poor and Lonely pray for us ★ Mary, Queen of All Saints pray for us ★ Mary, Mother of Jesus pray for us ★ Mary, The Immaculate Conception pray for us ★ Mary, Mother Most Pure pray for us ★ Mary, Queen of Angels pray for us ★ Mary, Help of the Sick pray for us ★ Mother Mary, Gentle in Mercy pray for us ★ Mary, Mother of the Church pray for us ★ Mary, Mother of Our Savior



Immaculate Conception Grade School

132 Arthur Street
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
630.530.3490

icgradeschoolelmhurst.org



Dedicated To:

Cathy Linley
ICGS Principal
2005-2023

FOLLOW US ON

[facebook.com/icgradeschoolelmhurst](https://www.facebook.com/icgradeschoolelmhurst)
[instagram.com/icgradeschoolelmhurst](https://www.instagram.com/icgradeschoolelmhurst)
[facebook.com/ICGS-Athletics](https://www.facebook.com/ICGS-Athletics)

#icgs