

LIONHEART



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF INTERMOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SPRING 2019



DEBATE TEAM REGION CHAMPS FOR 3RD YEAR IN A ROW!

Why is the Speech and Debate program so successful at Intermountain Christian School? As I asked this question to our Speech and Debate coach, Mrs. Croswite, you would have thought the reasons would be too numerous to list, however, she redirected the conversation back to



the students. She gave example after example of current students in her program and the successes of those who have graduated. I sat there waiting for her to list off what she, our top-ranked Speech and Debate coach, does to make our program the best, and the longer I sat there waiting, the clearer it became. The success of the Speech and Debate program is not necessarily about the high intelligence of the students (although that doesn't hurt), but it is the way each student is valued as an individual.

The Speech and Debate program began as a student-driven elective in 2002 and that is how it continues - as a culture of discipleship. This culture of discipleship in

the Speech and Debate program is where encouragement between students and hard work ethic equals success. 2015 Utah Speech Educator of the Year, our own Mrs. Croswite teaches with the philosophy that recognizes how God has created each student individually and embraces their God-given talent as they develop in her classroom. "The traditional philosophy says that certain events are better than

others and the student needs to conform to those events. I disagree with that philosophy. I look at each student and their gifts and then cater the events to them, individually." This is what makes Intermountain Christian School's Speech and Debate program stand out and wildly successful. Mrs. Croswite pushes each student to be their best and does not allow them to get away with anything less. "I set high standards and then I bend over backward to get them there."

Mrs. Croswite has 20+ years of teaching experience and as she equips our ICS students,

she inspires each one of them to thrive beyond the four walls of ICS. Here are just a few of the program's many success stories:

Amanda Soraiz (Class of 2008)- lawyer, actively litigates human trafficking cases
Patrick Schwarz (Class of 2011)- working on PhD in Economics at MIT
Eric Henry (Class of 2017)- Special Forces, writes and analyzes military intelligence briefings

The one-on-one investment our faculty makes is part of the immense benefit our students are receiving. And, as our Speech and Debate Coach says, "Our students can do more and be more at ICS!"

Congratulations to our 2019/2020 Region Champions and 2nd Place Speech and Debate State Champions! We are proud and honored to have you represent yourselves and ICS with such excellence!

By Rachel Larson
Admissions and Marketing Director



MUSIC TOUR: SERVICE ON A HIGH NOTE

For years, outside of performing and coming home exhausted, the Music Tour was a cycle of perform, pack up, and leave. But as Mr. Hope was processing the trip after the 2019 Music Tour came home, he had tears in his eyes, and said, "It's now so much more than the music. It went from performing 15 concerts back to back to now slowing down and spending time with the people we perform for."

Mr. Hope sat back in the computer chair next to me and said, "It takes a week to recover." The impact of the Music Tour is *that* significant for not only the students, but also the staff and parents who travel with them. The Music Tour travels first to Farmington, New Mexico and then into the Four Corners area of the Southwest reaching the Native Indian population at both mission schools and churches.

The students go from worrying about keeping up their snapchat streaks, feeling the discomfort of every bump of the bus ride, the dusty environment, and the



cramped spaces, to a radical shift in perspective. Many will attest that this new perspective stays with them for the rest of their lives. The students and staff alike come home from Tour with a priority on people, building relationships with people, and the revelation of who God is and how He moves in the lives of others. "Each year," Mr. Hope said, "graduating

seniors say, 'I'm going to miss this so much,' and I think, 'wow, I get to do this again and again; I get to watch God change kids' lives.'" Mr. Hope receives many accolades during and after the trip but he always points to Christ, the Creator and Sustainer of this amazing trip.

*By Rachel Larson
Admissions and Marketing Director*

“My experience on Music Tour was the guiding factor in choosing to now be a double major in International Studies and Christian Ministries.”

CANA BUCKLEY, SOPHOMORE AT GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT ICS: DRAWING CHILDREN TO HIS DIVINE NATURE

The joy in Early Childhood is seeing each child grow emotionally, academically, physically, and spiritually. Reaching for every aspect of the child, His glorious creation, is what sets ICS Early Childhood Education apart! Children have said, "We get to talk about God here!" Even in their short life spans, children have already

experienced the worldly culture in which God is left out. Drawing children to Him and His nature is of great importance at ICS and is beautifully displayed in the Early Childhood Education curriculum. Planting seeds for our spring salads in May, watching bulbs emerge from our fall plantings, seeing the transformation of a caterpillar into a

butterfly are all examples of how we are inspiring our Early Childhood students to His divine nature. Early Childhood Education at ICS isn't just Sunday School or daycare, but daily interactions and Biblical integration with God's qualities and His divine nature—the whole Child!

By Sheryl Geoghan, Kindergarten Teacher

ROMANS
o n e : t w e n t y

FOR HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES, NAMELY, HIS ETERNAL POWER AND DIVINE NATURE, HAVE BEEN CLEARLY PERCEIVED, EVER SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD, IN THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019

Our class of 19 seniors, 8 men and 11 women, will leave the campus of ICS ready to thrive in God's world. Accepted to 27 colleges and universities scattered all over the United States, they garnered over \$1.3 million in scholarship offers. We are also excited to see one of our graduates hearing God's call to missions and taking a gap year with World Race.

This class has been accepted to:

Arizona State University
Auburn University
Baylor University
Boyce College
California Baptist University
Clemson University
Colorado Christian University
Colorado School of Mines
Dixie State University
George Fox University
Grand Canyon University
Full Sail University
Furman University
LeTourneau University
Lipscomb University
Maryville College
Middle Tennessee State University
Montana State University
Point Loma Nazarene University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Salt Lake Community College
Samford University
Texas Christian University
University of Hawaii-Manoa
University of Tennessee-Knoxville
University of Utah
Westminster College

We look forward to sending them off at our Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 24, 2019 in the ICS Gymnasium. Please join us in keeping this class in your prayers.



LETTER FROM MITCH

WE'RE MOVING BACK TO UTAH!

Early last fall we received news that John and Dawn, parents of two ICS students, were moving out of state to pursue a job opportunity. We had the typical going away parties for their sons and bid a sad adieu to their family. In December, we were thrilled when Lauri Bradt, our Lower School Principal, received a phone call from Dawn communicating that after trying two schools, they were making arrangements with her work to move back to Salt Lake because they knew their boys needed Intermountain Christian School!

In February, I had lunch with John and Dawn and asked them about their experience. They expressed the joy of being back at ICS and how they are here to stay! They said they knew their children needed the Christ-centered learning community that is our school. I went on to explain the things we're working on as a school, especially via the initiatives of our strategic plan. They were pleasantly surprised by the improvement initiatives as they were already excited about what ICS currently is.

A vital component to the pursuit of excellence is a commitment to continuous improvement. Below are two new improvements we are implementing next school year.

NEW ELEMENTARY GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM FOR 2019-2020

Katy McCombs is our current 1st grade teacher. When she was contemplating what she wanted to study in her Master's program, she considered our strategic plan that mentions "Better Meeting the Needs of High Achieving Students." So Mrs. McCombs went all-in and focused her study in Gifted and Talented Education. After considering how that can be done at ICS, we are very ex-

cited to announce that we will launch the ICS Elementary Gifted and Talented Program this coming fall. Katy will spend a portion of her day dedicated to working with other teachers, incorporating strategies into their classrooms, and identifying and spending time with students for specific activities that will better inspire their learning. We are thrilled to pilot this program in Elementary Education and hope to expand it to other levels of the school in the coming years.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Since adopting our mission statement in 2015, we pour every aspect of ICS through our mission of being a Christ-centered learning community that equips and inspires students to thrive in God's world. Due to this, we saw the opportunity to develop a modest, but well-done international program as a way to enhance our students' educations. The International Program will be directed by Jacqueline Croswhite with assistance from Jennifer Adema. We are looking forward to primarily bringing in high school students from outside the US beginning next year. The number of students, by design, would not exceed 10% of our student body and we hope to place them individually with ICS host families. Early applications and inquiries have come from Vietnam, Ivory Coast, Chile and China.

If you know Dawn and John, welcome them back! Also know that in our desire to pursue our mission, we are always looking for ways to improve on the excellence that is the private Christian education of ICS.

Equip Inspire Thrive,
Mitch Menning, Head of School

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe came to the ICS stage February 21, 22, and 23 and for this director, it was a highly-satisfying and moving experience. I had wanted to do the show for years, but the opportunity never presented itself. Even the idea of producing the show here, following the highly-energetic *Seussical*, made me a bit nervous. Apparently, it has been quite a while since ICS produced a full-length play, as most main productions have been musicals. I wondered if the audience and performers would embrace a show with such a different feel and without any song or dance. But with a cast and crew of close to 50, the familiar story and characters came to life nicely on our small stage, and the production had a more elegant feel and a timeless quality.

It was a thrill to see my vision of the wardrobe entrance into the theatre come to life, thanks to the artistic efforts of Romana Brown and other generous parents. I really wanted the audience to be swept away into Narnia, walking through the wardrobe, past the coats and encountering the pine trees throughout the theater. The volunteer ushers promoted the idea by gathering several audience members outside of our wardrobe doors and asking them if they were ready to enter Narnia, similar to being on a guided tour at Disneyland. The onstage wardrobe was a find and actually fit all four children, some of whom were very tall! With the

addition of other key set pieces and the use of multi-media, we were able to tell the story in a very intimate space. The costuming was beautiful and the unsung heroine in both of this year's theater productions would have to be Ms. Mary Campbell. Her vision and tireless work brought our shows to a higher level. The cast truly came to life once they put on Ms. Mary's costumes.

The heart of the show was the cast and crew, working hard on timing, dialects, physicality, memorization, and lots of plain waiting until it was time for their respective entrances. When we were working on the battle scene, told through the stage convention of "Tableaux Vivant," the intensity of the frozen poses really drove the emotions home for the performers. Using no dialogue, they had to freeze in different battle poses - good versus evil - both sides intense and determined. And when Aslan came back to life, performers, techies, and audience members alike sensed the joy and hope and saw the story of resurrection told in a new light.

Sharing this beautiful story with our community was worth every minute of prep, running, rehearsing, etc. But the best part was hearing our students faithfully pray before every performance, "We want to bring You glory."

*By Tess Tally
Theater Director*



ANNUAL ELEMENTARY POETRY RECITAL A SUCCESS



ICS TRADITION

For 15+ years, the 1st and 2nd grade Poetry Recital has been a highlight of the school year. It is more than an event- it's a tradition. The students well into high

FOUR

school still recall what their chosen poems were, and it reminds us that the event has the long-lasting impact we hope to make year after year. Clearly, it is a fantastic opportunity for our young students to begin early, learning

fundamental life skills that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. The High School Speech and Debate Team invests

in our young students by giving them tips about speaking in front of an audience with confidence. They partner with each 1st and 2nd grade student to instill in them the value of stage presence, tone, inflection, and clarity. As students begin choosing their poems for the recital, the process allows for each student to achieve at his own academic level, thereby allowing for differentiation. This year we watched as students recited long poems, poems with props, self-written and co-written poems that were recited with confidence and enthusiasm on the stage in front of a full house of parents, grandparents, and friends.

*By Rachel Larson
Admissions and Marketing Director*



want to bring You glory.

CAST AND CREW OF THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE



We are the Parrett family and we're very excited to be a part of ICS since last fall. We moved to Utah in 2009 so that Amelia could complete her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Utah and had our first daughter, Kyla, in 2010. Today we have three daughters - Kyla (3rd Grade), Esther (age 5) and Sloane (age 2). Esther will be joining her big sister next fall as she begins Kindergarten at ICS. Amelia is originally from Wisconsin and I (Mark) am from Texas, but we met at Princeton University and moved from there to Washington, DC where we lived until coming to Utah. We never suspected that we'd be here for long but now Salt Lake City feels very much like our home. Amelia now practices as an Ob/Gyn at Intermountain Hospital in Murray. I recently ended a career in the tech startup world to focus entirely on an investment advisory and family vision coaching firm that grew out of a popular blog that I've been working on for the past few years called "Abraham's Wallet."

Outside of school, we're involved with Missio Dei Community where I serve as an elder. We have a deep passion for the Church in Utah and love to hear what the LORD is up to outside of our family and church community. One of the reasons why we are so pleased to be at ICS is the opportunity to experience the broader community of believers in Salt Lake! When we have free time, our family loves to ski, bike and trail run. Amelia has also recently become a devoted crossfitter where she delights in outrowing all of the boys.



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT The Parrett Family

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Katy McCombs has been with ICS for two years and will receive her Master's in Gifted and Talented Education in December of 2019. Her presence at ICS and in the classroom with our students is of immense benefit in that, as the students grow, they will reap tremendous reward to impact the world around them. Utilizing the gifted and talented approach to teaching expands opportunities for children, benefiting every student, even the ones that in the traditional classroom would be identified as "falling behind."

Here are 5 ways the gifted and talented approach benefits students:

1. DIFFERENTIATION

Gifted and Talented Education emphasizes variety- teaching which takes into account students' abilities and interests. Using differentiation is taking a broader approach to learning. Differentiating between content, processes, the learning environment, and product creation brings different opportunities and perspectives to students.



2. INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING

Gifted and Talented Education means teachers meet students where they are and then pushes them to learn more. Making a path for the learner to follow means that the teacher has an idea of where the students can go if properly led. Gifted and talented students can be motivated by making a new learning discovery that is further than where they might naturally go on their own.



3. ADAPTABLE BUT STRUCTURED

The gifted and talented learning journey is intended to take students deeper into more complex thinking. Walking up the path of Bloom's Taxonomy and reaching across the Levels in Webb's Depth of Knowledge is how deeper, more complex learning takes place. When combining these methods, it has the added benefit of preparing students for the kind of questions asked in standardized testing. Yet at the same time, students and teachers must remain flexible in their studies. If teachers have the knowledge to adapt their lessons to optimize student engagement, it ensures that all students have a better learning experience. Adaptable teaching reaches more students.

4. PROJECT-BASED AND PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

This is where students learn how to think through a situation and reach a solution. These group projects promote teamwork, reward "out of the box" thinking, and help students to connect what might seem like disparate ideas. Problem and project-based learning lends itself to working through real-world scenarios that have real-life opportunities connected to them. This is a great place to be innovative!

5. GOING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students need to be introduced to enriching outside resources. We want to think past the end of the school day, school year, and school career of a student and look forward to what's ahead. Gifted students have big potential for having highly-influential roles and careers, and they need to be introduced to possibilities in the world and challenged by

witnessing excellence around them. The world needs our gifted students to reach their full potential to be Christ-like and wise influencers.

*By Rachel Larson
Admissions and Marketing Director
with contributions from Katy McCombs*



ECE

Parent: [Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change your Family](#) by Paul David Tripp

Students: [Jesus Storybook Bible](#) by Sally Lloyd-Jones

ELEMENTARY

Parent: [Give Your Child the World: Raising Globally Minded Kids One Book at a Time](#) by Jamie C Martin

Students: [The Mighty Acts of God: A Family Bible Study Book](#) by Starr Meade

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parent: [Six Ways to Keep the "Little" in Your Girl](#) by Dannah Gresh; [Six Ways to Keep the "Good" in Your Boy](#) by Dannah Gresh

Students: [The Lily Series](#) books by Nancy Rue, [Shaken: a Young Readers Edition](#) by Tim Tebow

HIGH SCHOOL

Parent and Students: [Knowing God](#) by J.I. Packer; [Don't Waste Your Life](#) by John Piper

THRIVING IN THE ARTS

Tanner Lee, Class of 2019

Tanner Lee, a senior at ICS, was selected to be in the 47th Utah All-State High School Art Show. His photograph, *Eye of a Thousand Years*, was on display at the Springville Museum of Art in March. This year 1,016 works were entered from over 100 schools with 337 being selected for the exhibit. The purpose of the show is to honor the best high school artists in Utah for their talent and creativity. Congratulations to Tanner for a job well done!



“Pray, listen, and take every opportunity you can to let God show you what He has planned for your life, even if it is something you wouldn't expect.

I knew early into my time at ICS that I wanted to go to law school but wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my law degree. The rest of my family went into medicine, so I thought I'd be interested in working in healthcare compliance or defending medical malpractice claims, but I was also eager to work in a field where I could use my oral advocacy skills in court on a daily basis. I prayed almost every day, asking God to show me His plan. I got an answer during the spring semester of my first year of law school. As a lot of first-year law students do, I applied to dozens of jobs, including the Utah Attor-

ALUMNI ADVICE

Michelle Kfoury Class of 2011

ney General's Office. I originally applied for a position with the Criminal Appeals Division but got placed in the Family Justice Division on the Internet Crimes Against Children team. At first, I was disappointed I was not placed with my preferred division, but I trusted that God placed me there for a reason and accepted the position. Now,

three years later, I still work on the Internet Crimes Against Children team and know that this is where I am meant to be. I work with the best group of people who are all committed to protecting children, and I get to come to work every day knowing that I am helping to protect society's most innocent and vulnerable. I feel honored and blessed knowing God chose a career of advocating for children as my plan and my calling.”

BIBLICAL INTEGRATION

In the world of education there are many schools that are Christian in name only – essentially public schools with a Bible class. ICS is not such a school. We strive every day to fully integrate a Christian worldview into every subject. As a history teacher, this biblical integration is why I teach. History is a pointless collection of stories without a Creator God guiding its events.

Let me be clear about what biblical integration is not. It is not a bunch of Bible trivia, a list of alternative facts, a watering down of history, or a way of making excuses for bad behavior by Christians, Western Civilization, or the United States through the years. Instead, it begins with an understanding that history is the account of what man has done with the time that God has given him. God is the author and hero of the story. Man's role is one of a supporting actor with two choices: to honor God or to follow his own selfish desires.

For me personally, I use a variety of ways to integrate a biblical worldview into my curriculum. We begin every class with prayer. Students can view a bulletin board timeline prominently displayed in the room that shows the sequence of



“biblical” and “secular” events in history side by side. Additionally, I am deeply grateful for the undergraduate training I received at Pensacola Christian College where the whole focus of the education program is to teach with excellence from a biblical worldview. When preparing for lecture, I use the secular textbooks given to me by ICS as well as biblical worldview textbooks from Abeka Book Publishing

and have students take notes instead of taking the secular texts at face value. I am blessed to work at a school where biblical integration is not only allowed but also encouraged every day and in every way.

*By Andrew Hobbs
Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

ICS IS A CHRIST-CENTERED LEARNING COMMUNITY THAT EQUIPS AND INSPIRES STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN GOD'S WORLD.

GRADUATE PROFILE

**CHRISTLIKE
IN CHARACTER**
Biblical Worldview
Faithful in Difficulty
Loves in Diversity



WISE
Well-Educated
Truth Discerner
Well-Rounded

INFLUENCERS
Effective
Communicators
Biblical Courage



A FEW 2019 STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 "I liked the Poetry Recital! We got to sing Psalm 100!"
Hannah Freeman, Grade 1
- 2 "I really enjoyed being on the baseball team. I was new but felt immediately part of things here at ICS. The bus ride to our first tournament was fun!"
Marcus Mejicanos, Grade 9
- 3 "MSLT is super fun and silly and we get to be with school friends outside of school to plan events."
Paige Larson, Grade 7
- 4 "A knight came to our class with a sword and a shield! He had the belt of truth, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit, the shield of faith, and the breastplate of righteousness!"
David, Philip, Caleb, Grade K
- 5 "I like the sports here. I played volleyball and I'm going to play soccer."
Hannah Champeau, Grade 8
- 6 "I like Middle School Debate. It helps a lot with being more social and public speaking. When I'm older, I want to be a teacher, so it helps."
Emily Champeau, Grade 7
- 7 "Playing outside with my friend, Judah."
Reed Lengvarsky, PreK
- 8 "My favorite part of the year was going to Secret Lake for a field trip."
Kristyn Hilbelink, Grade 2
- 9 "I like math. We're learning cups, pints, quarts, and gallons."
Ashlyn Ault, Grade 2
- 10 "A highlight for me was going on the high school trip to Big Canyon Ranch."
Emma Constantino, Grade 9

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