

LIONHEART



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF INTERMOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SPRING 2020

OUR CHAMPIONSHIP |

BY RACHEL LARSON, ICS MARKETING DIRECTOR

"Do we want to win the State Championship? YES. But, really, we already won." That is what basketball coaches, Tim Drisdorn and Josh Longoria, relayed throughout the interview regarding this unique 2020 season. A week out from the State Tournament, ICS was ranked by Deseret News as the #1 team in the state. This '19-'20 basketball season has without a doubt been unprecedented in its success, and I'm not even referring to their 17-5 regular season record or the 1,000 point hurdle Caleb Koski achieved in only two years (27.0 ppg is 1st in Utah 1A & 3rd in all classes). Instead, the higher premium of spiritual growth is evident on this team. This growth is where the coaches have rooted their perspective in regards to the success of this season.

When Caleb came to Coach Longoria in December with a tattoo idea of Jeremiah 29:11, his response was, "Do you believe this is true and do you believe the rest of the Bible is true?" These questions and Caleb's responses define the success of the season. Coach Drisdorn went on to say, "I've known Caleb personally for 10 years. Last year was a culture shock and was hard for him. But now I've never seen him happier. He's a different dude. I know what's happening in his heart." Caleb confessed Christ is Lord this basketball season. In regards to that moment, Caleb said, "I've been saved." Tim replied after a pause, "This has been our championship."

These athletes are full of passion for their sport and coaches oftentimes share an influence on them that is unmatched outside of parents and pastors. These ICS basketball coaches are committed to an authentic relationship, transparency, challenge, accountability and being a part of each individual's transformation. These athletes are not fed inauthenticity, but real, face-to-face challenge to a life of pursuing Christ. Now we know. Now we see the victory. Beyond the stats, beyond a championship, this victory is eternal.





SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: ISAIAH MENNING |
BY BECKY SCHUMACHER, HS ENGLISH TEACHER

One of our own is headed to an Ivy League school. That is a big deal. According to ICS Operations Director Matt Johnson many students across the country have the scores and the grades to get in to Dartmouth College, but few are actually accepted (9% acceptance rate). So what is it about Isaiah Menning that led to his acceptance into this exclusive school? Perhaps the admissions committee at Dartmouth picked up on what we have been able to witness as Isaiah's teachers.

Isaiah has an absolute passion to learn. He humbly and sincerely listens. He respectfully questions and joyfully engages. Outside of the classroom, he serves his peers while bridging social divides with his warmth and authenticity. His passion for knowledge spills out as he excitedly informs those around him on the subjects of science, history, politics, faith and wolves (a lot about wolves). He is a proud member of our community and while he has been blessed with a unique gift, he graciously credits his ICS community for much of his success. Join us as we celebrate the incredible accomplishments of Isaiah!

"WHY DARTMOUTH," A SEGMENT FROM DARTMOUTH'S
3D MAGAZINE | BY ISAIAH MENNING, ICS SENIOR

"Vox Clamantis in Deserto." This phrase (Dartmouth motto) captures what higher education ought to embody. Only at Dartmouth College could I research New England canine genetics under distinguished professors as an undergraduate, hike in the pristine outdoor laboratory, and anticipate the next quarter in Costa Rica in the same day. With the abundance of intellectual and physical needs frontier made available, Dartmouth fulfills its motto. While touring the campus, I marveled at the immediate natural beauty and the friendliness of the students. At Dartmouth, I wouldn't be exploring the unknown alone—in the chorus of the whole institution, I'd join the cry in the wilderness.

A CALMING INFLUENCE

BY RACHEL LARSON, ICS MARKETING DIRECTOR

An art piece by ICS Senior, Myra Castleton, has been selected for the 48th Annual Utah All-State High School Art Show. Castleton says, "I have loved to draw since I could hold a pencil. I remember running out of paper as a little girl and erasing my mom's college notes on a paper to draw on." Castleton has always been most comfortable sketching with pencil and Mrs. Lee, ICS art teacher, who Castleton calls, "a calming influence," has always encouraged her to do something challenging with her art. Naturally, Castleton sketches with pencil, but in striving to take Mrs. Lee's advice and challenge herself, she created a piece with pen and ink; this pen and ink piece (pictured right) was selected for the All-State Art Show. The influence of Mrs. Lee is vast, as Castleton describes her as someone who "goes out of her way to get material that is needed and encourages us to better ourselves." She goes on to explain the influence of Mrs. Lee not only on her art, but on her spiritual life. "During every evaluation, I am asked to look at my art from a different perspective as Mrs. Lee always asks, 'How does this give glory to God?'" Congratulations to Castleton on being selected for the All-State Art Show. We echo her words describing Mrs. Lee as we are blessed and honored to have an educator like her who makes a difference in everything she does at ICS.

CASTLETON'S PEN/INK PIECE IN THE ALL-STATE ART SHOW



CAST AND CREW |
BY LUCY COLE, ICS SOPHOMORE

Picture this: you are in the ICS Black Box Theater. You are likely eating a snack from the concession stand and immensely enjoying the performance right before your eyes. But what you don't see is what's going on backstage (behind-the-scenes), where unseen members of the show work quietly to create a seamless masterpiece on the stage.

One of the most rewarding parts about working backstage during production is helping and watching the actors and actresses thrive. From the constant set changes, quick costume changes, or the last-minute safety pins to hold a costume together before an actor runs on stage, I've learned the little details matter. Helping everything get in place may be stressful, but getting to help the actors put on the show is amazing.

I remember feeling particularly content in my behind-the-scenes role during Seussical The Musical Jr. which took place fall of 2018. By the time the show was over, I knew almost every line in the whole show. This tends to happen when you're backstage! My favorite song was always Solla Sollew because the other crew members and myself would silently dance backstage. So the next time you're enjoying the show with snacks in hand, be reminded of those of us holding down the proverbial fort behind the curtain and quietly dancing.



“ HELPING EVERYTHING ALIGN AND GET IN PLACE MAY BE STRESSFUL, BUT THE REWARD OF HELPING THE ACTORS PUT ON THE SHOW IS AMAZING. -LUCY COLE



JA CITY

BY ALEX ADEMA, CEO, DPS SKIS, ICS DAD

I had the opportunity to chaperone Mrs. Hope's 5th grade class' visit to the Junior Achievement BizTown experience. Having participated two years earlier for my older daughter's day at JA BizTown, I couldn't wait to be involved again.

It is an absolute joy to watch the students live a "grown up" life for a day with awe and enthusiasm. When they cross over that bridge off of the elevator into JA BizTown, being told they are officially, temporarily grown-ups for the day, their countenance changes. They are eager to take on the challenge and sincerely have fun learning.

It means so much to me as a father to see the students having a joyful view of work. JA City was an opportunity to plant seeds in a practical way about what the future holds for them. I loved watching them "leave the stress at the bridge" on the way out, as well as receive a few important perspectives, life skills and fond memories with classmates in the process.

Practically speaking, seeds are being planted in terms of financial literacy (i.e. balancing a checkbook), awareness of the economy and community interdependency, work readiness skills and basics of business management. I'm more than a little bit jealous that I didn't get to have this experience as a 5th grader!

I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Hope and the other elementary teachers for the effort and consistency that they put into the Junior Achievement program during these formative years.



CHRIST-CENTERED CULTURE BY LAKEN WATTS, ANTIOCH CHURCH KIDS' PASTOR, ICS MOM

In August, our family made the decision to enroll at ICS. It was a leap of faith for us, as our original plan was to homeschool for the next several years. In a crazy turn of events, we found ourselves enrolling our two boys as full-time students. I was worried about how our family would transition and I had my doubts about the culture at ICS. But I had heard nothing but wonderful things about the school, so we pressed on.

The first few weeks were amazing. My kids loved their teachers and new friends. They would get in the car and rattle off so many stories about their day. Everything was going great! Until... one afternoon, I received a call from the principal's office. It was a voicemail letting me know that my oldest had been sent to the office for disobeying.

It had been one month since school had started. My husband makes the joke that he made it 12 years without being sent to the office once and our sweet little kindergartener couldn't make it four weeks. I called the principal back, and she explained the situation. In one of the kindergarten classes they had to make a rule that you aren't allowed to kiss your friends. The consequence was that if you disobey you will have to go to the office. Well, my little rebel decided to

cross the line at rest time and blow a kiss across the room to a sweet friend. Our son's teacher, being a woman of her word, sent him straight to the office as promised. I called the principal back and I laughed as I thought about this son of rebellion blowing kisses to the girl of his dreams (for that week). But disobedience is disobedience in our book, so I asked the principal if I could come and meet with her, my son and his teacher. She of course agreed and we got to have a debrief on the situation.



We're big fans of repentance so my son got to turn away from his sin of disobedience, walk into freedom with his teacher and the principal, and then we all prayed with him. As he went back to class, the principal and I were walking down the hall discussing what happened. She said he came into her office with a broken heart and she got to tell him that he is loved and forgiven by his teacher and by her, but most of all that Jesus loves and forgives him. I was so blown away. What other school would share the Gospel with their children, tell them they are loved and forgiven, and then let a mother come to the school to pray and repent? I don't know of a single one.

We are so grateful for the culture at ICS — a culture where Jesus is King, and we are going to relentlessly instill these Kingdom values, even over a kiss blown across the room.



CLASS OF 2020 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES



ALUMNA ADVICE |
BY CARLEE SCHRAM, ICS ALUMNA, CLASS OF 2019

ICS equipped me for a life after high school that would strive to satisfy God. In my time at ICS, I was challenged in what I believed and what path I would take that would dictate the direction of my life. Taking advantage of your time and the resources provided at ICS are more important than you might think. After high school you will experience many challenges such as difficult college classes, financial obligations or difficulty in the workforce. However, the biggest challenge you will be given is the decision whether to walk in God's plan or to follow the rest of the world.

Unlike most schools, ICS presents you with the opportunity to be involved in chapel, small groups, regular prayer, worship and mentorship from godly influences. It is easy to see these things as just part of your regular weekly schedule, but I encourage you to purposefully engage in these activities: allow your actions to be motivated by Christ, seek out counsel from your teachers who want to walk and pray with you through hard times, create and engage in godly fellowship, live out an example for those younger than you to follow and give everything now for the Lord!



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT: THE STAHLS |
BY SARAH STAHL, ICS MOM, PRE-K AIDE



We are the Stahl family and are so excited to be a part of ICS. We are new to Utah, having moved here this past summer from Florida. After visiting Utah six years ago on vacation, we immediately fell in love with this beautiful state! When it was time to make a move from Florida, we knew exactly where our new home would be.

We were thrilled when we were given the recommendation for ICS. Within minutes of touring the school, we knew we had found the place that our children would be attending. We have two children - Meadow who is in 6th grade and Hampton, who is in kindergarten. While they are true Floridians at heart, it didn't take long for them to develop a love for all the seasons of Utah. They have picked up skiing quickly and we go often as a family. We also enjoy hiking, biking and exploring the beautiful state parks as a family.

I am a stay-at-home-mom who has recently joined the ICS staff, helping with Pre-K along with substitute teaching. I am really enjoying getting to know the teachers, staff and the amazing students. My husband, David, is the managing director for Hillcrest Bank and he is enjoying getting to know a new market and meeting a lot of great people!

Finding a church here in Utah was one of our biggest priorities. We have been so blessed to become a part of Ridgeline Church. We love serving there through guest services and look forward to seeing the growth and all the many blessings Ridgeline will bring to our community. We are so thankful for the warm reception we received at ICS and are proud to be a part of this community!



ROBOTICS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS |
JIM WIRKUS, TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION SPECIALIST, MS/HS STEM AND COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER

In today's tech-driven world, it's important now more than ever to prepare students for the future. There is no doubt there will be a huge demand for people who can program mechanical devices in the coming years. According to *The Economist*, more than 15,000 drones are sold in the U.S. each month. On average, kids spend 6-9 hours a day consuming digital media, so why not inspire young minds to go from consuming technology to creating it?

Here at ICS, we've offered robotics classes for the past several years. This year our students are working with OZOBOTS. OZOBOTS are a mini-robot that blends the physical and digital worlds and teaches students programming. An OZOBOT can identify lines, colors and codes on both digital surfaces, such as a Chromebook, and physical surfaces, such as paper.

Some of the projects mastered by ICS students this year include planning a mission to Mars, programming a "dance party," and designing an efficient snow plow — all projects challenging the students to design innovative solutions to open-ended questions.

The benefits of learning robotics in middle school are expansive. Besides being fun, the students learn creative thinking; acquire valuable programming skills; work through frustration and learn the value of perseverance; and lastly, promotes a culture of teamwork.

BOOKS OUR EMPLOYEES HAVE READ IN 2020

- "Mindshift: Catalyzing Change in Christian Education" by Lynn E. Swaner, Dan Beerens and Erik Ellefsen
- "Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups" by Daniel Coyle
- "Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work" by Tim Keller
- "An Ethic of Excellence: Building a Culture of Craftsmanship with Students" by Ron Berger

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

LETTER FROM MITCH

On more than one occasion I've been asked, "Mitch, are you addicted to change?" My response, which has also developed into an administrative motto, has been, "I'm not addicted to change. I'm addicted to improvement."

We're always looking for ways to improve everything at ICS. Specifically, we're pursuing what we believe to be better and better ways to equip our students. I'm sure many of you have heard the daunting projections (that vary with different studies) stating 50-80% of the careers in 2050 do not exist today. How do we, as an educational institution, equip our students for careers that do not exist today?

Some recent examples of our ongoing pursuit of equipping and inspiring our students to thrive in God's world are the development of our C3 program for students showing special abilities in a variety of areas, MS programs of robotics and STEM, and the adoption of new reading and math curriculums with science next on the assessment schedule. This spring, we're launching into a 4+ year process called, "Teaching for Transformation." This program gets at our pedagogy (methods and practice of teaching) and leads us to assess everything through the lens of our mission and core beliefs. The question we'll be asking is, "Do we really do what we say we do?" Coach Drisdorn is involved nationally in the development of a related program called, "Coaching for Transformation." This summer we're considering new curriculum to teach bullying prevention and social skills. Finally, we're excited to launch new dual enrollment courses for our juniors and seniors. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to go beyond our AP offerings, taking courses for college credit through high-quality Christian

universities. This increases our offerings, allows students to pursue individual interest and better equips our students for what's to come.

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Our ultimate goal in equipping is the pursuit of our graduate profile of developing students who have true Christlike character, who are wise, and who are influencers. 2 Peter 1:3 reminds us, "His (God's) divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life." I'm grateful to have the ultimate guide in our pursuit of improvement, Jesus, who is the greatest equipper of all.

**EQUIP INSPIRE THRIVE,
MITCH MENNING, HEAD OF SCHOOL**

