



ELEMENTARY ENRICHMENT: FOR THE LOVE OF LEGO

I AM EXCELLENT

Growing up I always had a love for LEGO. There was nothing better than waking up Christmas morning, opening the new LEGO set I had been wanting for months and building it that same day. Working with LEGO not only provided endless hours of building, rebuilding, and imaginative play, but it taught me valuable skills like the ability to follow directions, analyze my work, identify problems, and break a large project into smaller more manageable pieces. This happened without me realizing it; it was so much more than just a lot of fun.

I started at ICS in 2nd grade and graduated in 2004. I am so excited my kids are now attending. ICS did so much for me socially, academically and spiritually, but it also developed in me a love for math and science. Throughout elementary, middle and high school, I was exposed to teachers who loved these subjects and imparted that love to their students. As a father of two amazing boys, I want to make sure they have the same opportunities to fall in love with math and science. Enter: LEGO Club. My hope is that it will give students the opportunity to explore STEAM subjects and to plant a seed of interest.

In the ICS elementary LEGO Club, we will be using LEGO bricks, sensors and motors, paired with simple and intuitive programming software to explore real-world problems and develop working LEGO models to solve those issues. Students will have the opportunity to try multiple solutions and discover what works and what doesn't. Then as a team, they will communicate the steps they took and what they discovered. Through collaboration and problem-solving, students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience addressing real-world issues.

LEGO Club will be utilizing the LEGO Education WeDo 2.0 Curriculum to learn how to integrate LEGO bricks, sensors and motors systems with robotic programming software. We are so excited to be launching LEGO Club this year and to build, learn and grow together. | BY ALEX BASKETT, ICS ALUM



CROSS-COUNTRY I AM STRONG

When your middle school cross-country team lands 3rd place in the state last year, doubles its participant count this year and then dominates in the first few meets, it deserves all the press. These athletes persevered through 90-degree heat during their first weeks of fartleks, strength training, speed work, long runs and so on. Middle school cross-country extended its participant allowance to 5th grade this year, and one of its small, but strong 5th grade athletes placed 9th among her 6th, 7th, and 8th grade peers in the very first meet. Placing next to her, in the top 10, were 4 other ICS athletes, who quickly revealed they were also a force to be reckoned with this season. At the second middle school meet, 10 of our ICS middle school athletes were in the top 15, and more specifically, 1st-5th place were ICS runners. The middle school cross-country athletes are the top runners in our division!

This year, ICS added high school cross-country to its line up of athletic offerings at the school. Little did we know the caliber of runners we actually had until now! When I asked high school cross-country coach, Faith Longoria, about the first high school cross-country meet, she said, "They had a great showing at their first high school meet at Soldier Hollow. It was the toughest course they will run all season and many of the schools competing were 5A and 6A schools. We were small in numbers compared to some of the other teams, but we showed ourselves capable of competing with the bigger schools. Ashlyn Nelson medaled, placing her 6th in her race of 71 runners, and many of them she beat were from 5A and 6A schools."

Stats aside, keep an eye out for our cross-country team running around town and be sure to cheer them on as they not only train but compete and rank among the top runners in the state. | BY RACHEL LARSON, MARKETING DIRECTOR

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM I AM COURAGEOUS

This year we have re-launched our International Student Program (ISP) by welcoming four students to our high school, 3 from Vietnam and 1 from China. These students were immersed in high school life at ICS almost before the jet lag could wear off! The retreat at Big Canyon Ranch, choosing electives, participating in sports and making new friends, all happened nearly immediately for our students. This introduction to life at ICS certainly took courage!

When asking international student, Anna, to describe her biggest fear in coming to ICS from Vietnam, she responded, "I was scared about making friends, but they came to me, and Polina even bought me a coffee drink, which was heartwarming." Our hospitable homestay families have also made the transition easier. In asking Anna how being cared for by her homestay family has gone, she replied, "I feel like I'm their child. I've grown up a lot. When I was in Vietnam, my mom did everything for me, but since being with the Jacksons, I've learned how to do my own laundry, clean my own room and care for myself." Anna's homestay guardian, Christie, commented, "It's been fun getting to know Anna's culture and her perspective on home life, social life, climate and school! We've loved hav-

ing Anna go to church with us and join us at ICS games and events! She fits right in."

When ICS initially Skyped with Anna, while she was still in Vietnam, we asked her what her interests were and she immediately answered, "Art. I want to be an animator for Disney or Pixar." We were thrilled to let her know about our incredible art teacher, Mrs. Lee, but it wasn't until she got here that we realized she truly does have a gift for creating! Ana courageously walked in her God-given gift, applied for Inter-



mountain Christian School, and now that she's here, guess what her favorite class is? Art. Mrs. Lee recognizes Anna's gift: "She's amazing—very talented. When I asked Anna if she had any art classes in the past and she said she hadn't, her work revealed a natural inclination, a true gift for art. She (and the other international students) work hard and are really happy to be here. They have been a great addition to the class environment." When we think of what Psalm 96:3 says to us, it can seem daunting and near impossible to tell other nations of God's great works. But, what an amazing opportunity we have to do so when the other nations come to us.

If you have questions about our ISP or have an interest in being a homestay family in the future, please contact Jennifer Adema or Jacqueline Crowwhite. | BY JENNIFER ADEMA, ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR & RACHEL LARSON, MARKETING DIRECTOR

2018-2019 CO-CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

SOCCER: HS/MS 2nd in state

VOLLEYBALL: MS 2nd in state, HS 3rd in state

DEBATE: 2nd in state

CROSS-COUNTRY: MS 3rd in state

Fall athletics are off to a roaring start, and we can't wait to see where we place this year!



WHOLE-HEARTED LIVING: BIG CANYON RANCH

I AM KNOWN

Intermountain Christian School's Big Canyon Ranch (BCR) High School Retreat is a fun-filled experience in which students in the high school can develop a strong connection with each other and God right at the start of the year.

This wasn't my first rodeo at Big Canyon Ranch. Even before high school, I had been up there countless times for church youth retreats and YoungLife events. But when I came up to BCR for the second time with ICS, it was a completely different experience. In a typical high school, a lot goes on: mischief, seniority, drama and cliques galore plague the already awkward lives of teenagers at school. Some of these same things happen at ICS, sure, but the Big Canyon Ranch retreat completely changes the dynamic between students.

This year, as a student body representative in the student council, I was able to take part in planning

the retreat. This changed my perspective because I was able to greet new students and freshmen (of which there were plenty this year) like I was greeted when I was a freshman. I could tell almost immediately the cliques and grade divisions were melting away. We were no longer a collection of separate grades, but instead, one large student body.

Our speaker, Pastor Simoncini, challenged us with the goal of living whole-heartedly for Jesus, and not "almost" committing our lives fully to Him. We were encouraged to work together toward this goal and it helped strengthen our community. We also started meeting with our small groups, which we will continue to meet with biweekly throughout the school year.

Big Canyon Retreat helps kick-off our strong community at the beginning of the school year. The fun activities and spiritual aspects that welcome students into the new school year at Big Canyon Ranch retreat are one of the many one-of-a-kind events that help build our close-knit high school community at ICS. | BY JACK GREEN, ICS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

"GOD WASHED ME WITH HIS GRACE AS I ENTERED INTO A KNOWING THAT HE'S USED ICS, THIS COMMUNITY, THESE FRIENDS, MENTORS, AND TEACHERS TO COME ALONG-SIDE MY SON. THIS WAS HOW THE BCR RETREAT THEME OF WHOLE-HEARTED LIVING LANDED IN ME: TO SURROUND OURSELVES WITH THOSE WHO CAN STRENGTHEN, SHARPEN AND ENCOURAGE US ALONG THE JOURNEY." -NICOLE STODDARD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND HS SMALL GROUP LEADER

To read the accompanying article, visit www.intermountainchristian.org/blog

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT: THE CARBAJAL/SCOTT FAMILY

I AM CONFIDENT

We are the Carbajal/Scott family and are blessed to have been a part of the Intermountain Christian School family since I (Danielle) started preschool there in 1984! We are a blended family with two children, Natalie (5th grade) and Devan (7th grade). Our daughter, Natalie, started at ICS in 1st grade with Mrs. Abee as her teacher; the same teacher I had for 3rd grade twenty-eight years prior, complete with identical experiences in making Parent Teacher Conference "dummies" and a field trip on the Heber Creeper train. Devan attends Eastmont Middle School in Sandy and is loving the independence of riding his bike or the bus to school. My husband, Rich, is originally from Spokane, Washington and moved to Utah upon his stationing at Hill Air Force Base in 2004. Since leaving the military after 12 years of service, he attended Physician Assistant school at Wichita State University in Kansas, graduated last summer with his masters and is currently a PA at Intermountain Heart Center, a private practice cardiology clinic in Murray. I was born and raised in Utah. After graduating from ICS in 1998, I attended the University of Utah and then moved to

San Diego where I earned my doctor of pharmacy from the University of California, San Diego in 2007. I have been the Newborn ICU clinical pharmacist at Intermountain Medical Center for the last 12 years. In 2015, I became a board-certified pediatric pharmacist and love that my work allows me to take care of "the tiny humans" on a daily basis.

Our family attends Risen Life Church and loves being involved with our tight-knit community group there. In our rare, spare moments, we enjoy boating, bike rides, hiking and goofy dance parties in the kitchen. I am a life-long Jazz fan and continuously attempt to instill my passion for the team in the rest of my family. When deciding on a school for Natalie, I always knew that I wanted her to be as blessed as I was with a Christ-centered, advanced education and Godly teachers and mentors to guide her in navigating through her most vulnerable years of life. It was a no-brainer! We are excited to see what God has in store for our family and for ICS in the coming years.



ICS CAPTIVATES PRESTIGIOUS COMPOSER

I AM INSPIRED

In December of 2007, I took a group of high school band students to Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, CO. There was a relatively new event for high school musicians called Best of the West. Since 2007, we have made this trip an annual event for select ICS high school musicians. One of the special components of Best of the West is that CMU commissions a composer each year to write a piece of music for the university's Wind Symphony to perform. This composer is in residence during the event and works with the high school musicians as they perform one of their pieces for the Best of the West finale concert. It is truly a special highlight for our students each year.



This past December during Best of the West, I was having a conversation with Benjamin Taylor, the commissioned composer for the year. As we talked about various things that directors and composers talk about, Benjamin became more and more intrigued with ICS and the band program here. He then said, "Nathan, can we talk about maybe working together on something soon?!" The following week we spent a little over an hour on the phone talking further about the ICS band program and how it has been able to offer unique opportunities to our students. We went on to talk about the possibility of a direct commission for ICS. After speaking with various supporters of the ICS Music Department, the funds were lined up and we were able to commission a piece to be written for the ICS Symphonic Band.

To the average person, a commissioned band piece doesn't sound like a very big deal. On the contrary, it is a huge deal! When I mentioned to Leon Chodos (Utah Symphony bassoonist), Graeme Mutchler (Utah Symphony bass trombonist), and Josh Reimann (Eastmont Middle School Instrumental Direc-

tor) that we were commissioning a work for the band they each reacted with great excitement. Leon stated, "Most music students never experience being part of a commissioned work throughout their schooling and even through the university level." This year, the ICS band students in 5th through 12th grades get to be part of a once in a lifetime experience! One very special aspect of this commission is how Dr. Taylor is going to work through this with our students.

Usually, when a band work is commissioned, the composer is commissioned and paid and then he writes the piece of music and sends it to the group to be performed. Not so with this piece! Dr. Taylor is going to do a couple of Skype sessions with our band students during class time this fall to introduce them to the process and give them an idea of how he goes about composing a piece of music. Throughout the fall he will keep us up to date with the progress of the piece. Then, in January, we will have a final Skype session where he will present us with the finished product. Our students will be able to have input on portions of the piece as well as naming the work. We will begin rehearsing the music in January in preparation for our Spring Instrumental Concert on April 30 where we will perform the world premiere of the work. Dr. Taylor will be coming to ICS to work with the students on final touches and then be presented for the premiere concert.

To learn more about Dr. Benjamin Taylor, visit his website at benjamintaylormusic.com. | BY NATHAN HOPE, ICS MUSIC DIRECTOR

“ AS A DIRECTOR, I AM BESIDE MYSELF WITH EXCITEMENT TO BE PART OF A DIRECT COMMISSION BUT EVEN MORE EXCITED FOR THE ICS BAND STUDENTS WHO GET TO EXPERIENCE THIS. THIS EVENT IS ONE YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS! EVEN THOUGH IT IS SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY, PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE ICS SPRING CONCERT ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020, AT 7:00 PM IN THE ICS AUDITORIUM. ”



ALUMNI ADVICE

I AM EQUIPPED

As some of you are planning to attend an out of state college, you will discover people will often ask, "What do you miss the most about home?" I respond, as embarrassing as it may seem, that I miss my old school. Intermountain Christian School holds a special place in my heart because my classmates became my family and my teachers became my role models. My hope is that current students understand attending ICS is a chance to also experience this. Extracurriculars can be seen as worthwhile opportunities as well, but for me, my takeaway is more personal. Sports, yearbook staff, student council and debate are all worthwhile experiences ICS offers its students, but your years here can be more impactful by fully embracing your role as an ICS student.

The opportunity as an ICS student is unique because it allows you to specifically invest in your peers, teachers and the school itself. The small, Christ-centered atmosphere is the perfect place to know the stories of your fellow students and learn from them. Over the course of nine years at ICS, my classmates became more like brothers and sisters than just kids who were the same age learning alongside me. They taught me and challenged me to love others simply because Jesus first loved us.

The next opportunity ICS students have are for their teachers to become mentors. I have

had countless conversations with my ICS teachers in which I thought afterward, "Wow. They are displaying what it looks like to live a life infused with the Gospel and I want to live like that." I challenge you to take time to listen to your teachers' stories and see if you notice the same admirable qualities.

Lastly, being an ICS student allows you to accomplish much more than earning a high school diploma. While you are attending ICS, you have an avenue to actively build God's Kingdom here on earth. My peers and I were able to invest in the future of the school and work for Christ by volunteering, serving the lower grades, working whole-heartedly in extracurriculars and even being employed by the school. All of these things may seem like random commitments, but I know God used these simple moments to accomplish big things.

Most importantly, the opportunities of pouring into your peers, listening to your teachers and spreading the Gospel aren't just handed to you. You have to seek them out. Be intentional. Take advantage of your years at ICS and all of the experiences and opportunities you have available to you. You won't regret it. | BY SONYA WIRKUS, ICS ALUM



ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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

LETTER FROM MITCH

I AM THRIVING

As a school administrator, I can almost predict how casual conversations will likely begin based on the time of year. The predictable September question is, "How's the start of the school year?" And I'm happy to report that I can respond assuredly, "I feel so fantastic about our start. I am very excited about what God has for us this year. There's something different...in a good way!" I want to share with you three stories that reinforce this.

Our high school holds its overnight annual retreat at Big Canyon Ranch every year the week before Labor Day. It's an event led by our Student Council. Yes, Mrs. Schumacher does an exceptional job as their advisor and Mrs. Buckley does a great job leading them, but the students really do lead the retreat. This year, I joined them for the evening of the first day. I saw smiles and unpredicted mixing among both the students and among the students and teachers. Our high school has the highest enrollment in 20 years,

and everyone was known and had a place. The Christ-centered community being pursued was taking place right before me.

Recently, I walked around the school with Pastor Corey Hodges. Corey is the pastor at The Point Church in Kearns and serves on the ICS School Board. We stepped into one of the classrooms and saw four elementary students working with Katy McCombs. I said, "Hey guys! What are you up to?" They all chimed in enthusiastically, "This is C3!" C3 is part of our new elementary Gifted and Talented Program and it stands for Complexity, Creativity, and Challenge. These four students were working with a teacher, one group learning more about Hawai'i and the other, investigating puppies. Through this program, our students were experiencing the joy of being lifelong learners.

A few weeks ago, I was having a conversation with one of my own high school children who is taking an elective class with Mr. Begg, called "Faith and Media." The class had just finished watching the tragic movie, *Hotel Rwanda*. My son's response

and questions led me to the realization that classes like this have a huge impact. As I told Mr. Begg about this conversation a few days later, he mentioned that lately he had been looking at the Bible 12 curriculum and asked himself, "What are the things we need to teach and work through with our students before we send them into the world as ICS graduates?" With this, I am assured about our teacher's commitment to pursuing our graduate profile for our students: developing Christ-like character and being wise influencers.

I'm excited to see this impactful education happening at ICS from 3-year-old preschool students to 18-year-old seniors planning for whatever's next. Moreover, even as we develop better and better learning environments, our teachers are pursuing improvement by asking the right questions. So how is this year? I'd say we're off to a great start.

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

