



The Blast

Our School. Our Community
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Issue 2: August 21, 2026

Week 2 Building a Foundation

What a week it's been! Our students have been busy settling in and getting used to the rhythm of a full day of school. Through the ISE Blast, you'll hear from different voices across our community, and this week, Ms. Kim Allies, our Elementary Coordinator, and Mr. John Moore, our Secondary Coordinator, share a little glimpse into what the week looked like at ISE!

– From Ms. So Hyoung An

Hello from Elementary School!

Welcome back to another wonderful year! We have just wrapped up our first full week of school, and it has been a joy watching our Elementary School students settle in with their new classmates, teachers, and daily routines. Here are a few key highlights and updates for our ES families:

- **MAP Testing (Grades 2–5):** Students in Grades 2–5 completed their Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) growth tests this week. MAP tests are computer-adaptive assessments that measure student growth and achievement in key academic subjects. We use these valuable insights to tailor our instruction, identify learning needs, and provide individualized support to help every child thrive.
- **Recess & Lunchtime Buddies:** Our elementary students are loving shared break times with the older students. There is an incredible energy at lunch as our middle and high schoolers naturally step up to play with and look after the younger boys and girls.
- **Stay Connected via Seesaw:** Seesaw remains our main platform for elementary communication. If you haven't already, please download the app and turn on notifications so you never miss an update.
- **Weekly Newsletters & Learning Diaries:** Friday Newsletters will continue to go home in your child's Friday Folder and digitally via Seesaw. Starting next week, our specialist teachers will also share updates about what students are learning in their classes, giving you a full picture of their weekly academic journey.

We look forward to a fun-filled and successful school year ahead!

– From Ms. Kim Allies



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Hello from Secondary School!

What a productive week! With our first full week officially in the books, Secondary School students have truly settled into their routines and kicked off the school year on a strong note. Beyond jumping into their core academic classes, students finalized their elective choices and are gearing up for After School Activities (ASAs) starting next week.

It has been lovely to see such a positive atmosphere in the hallways. Teachers have noted how well students are collaborating and taking ownership of their learning. It is also encouraging to watch returning and new students alike building connections, navigating their schedules, and helping to create a welcoming, inclusive environment.

Now that electives are finalized, students can begin focusing on the subjects that align with their interests and goals. Whether they are exploring technology, learning a new language, or participating in the arts, these tailored classes promise to make this academic year both challenging and fulfilling.

Looking ahead, the excitement continues as our vibrant ASA program launches next week. These co-curricular offerings play a crucial role in holistic development, giving students the chance to build teamwork skills, discover new hobbies, and push their boundaries outside the traditional classroom setup. From competitive sports and STEAM clubs to leadership initiatives and creative workshops, there is something to inspire every individual.

We encourage parents to review the upcoming schedule with their children so they are prepared for their new afternoon routines. Thank you to our faculty, families, and students for a smooth and successful opening week. We have built a solid foundation, and we look forward to a great year ahead.

– From Mr. John Moore

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Reminders:

- Next Monday is **B Day!**
- After School Activities (ASA) begin on Monday!
- You need to inform the main office of any changes to pick up arrangements. It needs to be the main office and not to individual teachers so please let the main office know.
- Buy your lunch coupons in advance so that the lunch line can run smoothly.
- Keep your personal devices at home.
- Let's remember to stay hydrated! Bring your water bottles.
- Check your ManageBac/Seesaw/Email/LINE messages from school.
- Medical Update Forms, Media Consent Forms, and Student Parent Handbook Agreement forms have gone out today – please make sure to sign and return them.
- There are still some students who haven't completed their MAP Tests so we will schedule their make ups for next week.
- Please feel free to come use our Parent Lounge! In case you don't know where it is located, it is right by the green gates going down to the Elementary School. If you arrive early, feel free to make yourself comfortable in the lounge.



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