



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF LOUISIANA

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Head of School's Report

October 26, 2022

Melanie Tennyson, CEO/Head of School

The mission of the International School of Louisiana is to provide a challenging education, emphasizing: language immersion, international awareness, the celebration of diversity, and community responsibility.

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Dates to Note

- October 31: Progress Report Conferences (no school for students)
- November 1: NCAP Main Round Application Window Opens
- November 8: Election Day (school closed)
- November 12: Corporate Classic (formerly Crescent City Classic)
- November 21-22: Teacher PD (no school for students)
- November 23-25: Thanksgiving Holiday (school closed)
- December 16: ½ Day Dismissal
- December 19-30: Winter Break (school closed)
- January 2: New Year's Holiday (school closed)
- January 3: Teacher PD (no school for students)
- January 4: Report Cards Issued
- January 16: Martin Luther King Holiday (school closed)
- January 18: Next Board of Trustees Meeting

Academics

Current Total Enrollment: 1,139

Dixon: 287

Uptown: 551

Westbank: 302

- Homeless students: decreased 40% since 21-22.

Three ISL teachers were nominated for **New Schools for New Orleans' Teacher of the Year** award; they are Kyle Scott (Middle School ELA), Alma Gonzalez (Westbank Kindergarten - Spanish), and Jevani Marie (Dixon 2nd Grade - French). The gala event to honor teachers will take place November 5th.

Family Engagement - several family events were held across campuses, including: Movie Night at the Uptown Campus and a Lunch & Learn with Dr. A series; Fall Fest (for all ISL families) and ArtFul Family Night with KismArt at the Dixon Campus; and a Mystery Readers program at the Westbank, which invited family members to visit the school and read to a class. Family Science Night is forthcoming in November.

ANet - the first round of benchmark testing has been completed. Overall students continue to make gains against the COVID learning loss.

K-3 Literacy screeners and the Kindergarten Entry Assessment were completed for all students in grades K-3. Speech and Hearing testing is ongoing and near completion. **ELPT** (English Language Proficiency Testing) will soon be administered to students who identify as English not being their family's home language.

Athletics - ISL MS Girls Volleyball team went to the playoffs. The team won the first round and lost in the second round. A huge accomplishment for a team that practiced outside and had not played together before.

International Visitors - Monday October 25th, a **delegation of 7 educators from Bretagne, France** and representatives from the Louisiana World Languages Dept. spent the morning at the Uptown campus. The French delegation is visiting Louisiana teachers and administrators to observe schools and to talk about the benefits and challenges of different types of exchanges and international mobility

Operations

IT Director Ashley Weiss and Communications & Development Director Karla Marie Cochran created a modernized, streamlined **new web site** for the school, which was launched on 10/21.

Student information was submitted for the **EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer)** program; approximately 59% of ISL students qualified for free or reduced lunch.

HR - employees completed their annual required professional development on topics such as mandated reporting, bullying, and suicide prevention, as well as the State's ethics training. Currently we have 1 classroom teaching position open.

Facilities - our Facilities team added padding to some playground equipment and painted exterior steps and elevation changes to prevent injuries. Exterior windows were painted at the Uptown campus and the West Bank is in the process of being water sealed.

Aviva Le, Director of Facilities, and Emily Thomas, Chief of Operations, attended the 2022 **School Safety Summit** in Baton Rouge.

Transportation - NOLAPS is considering amending their parish policy regarding required yellow bus transportation to include students in grades 6-8. Type 2 schools follow the parish guidelines in which they are located. This change will have a significant financial impact on the organization.

Our annual **audit** began on September 12.

Head of School's Office

Awards - ISL was voted the *Best Grammar School* in Gambit's annual Best of New Orleans issue. We were also named the *#4 Best Charter Elementary School*, *#4 Best Charter Middle School*, and *#5 Most Diverse Public Elementary School in Louisiana* by Niche.com; these rankings are determined by parent/family votes and enrollment data.

Communications & Development - The Pro Bono grant - requesting funding for a new food service van - has made it to the second stage of the granting process; Admissions advertising and marketing for 23-24 application window has begun; staff kickball and soccer teams have been a big success.

ISL's **Annual Site Visit** from the Department of Education took place on September 22 and was very positive.

Volunteers have begun scheduling their background checks in accordance with the new "stricter" volunteer policy adopted at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

Open House and tours for prospective students have been scheduled for the Westbank and Dixon campuses; Open House will take place on January 7, 2023 from 10-11 am, and tours are scheduled at both campuses for November 15 and December 13 at 10 am.

We met with representatives of **New Schools for New Orleans** to review the data they have compiled regarding enrollment trends, system capacity and student population changes, and Orleans Parish school facilities.

ISL's 22-23 **Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan** was completed and submitted to the State.

PD - Ms. Tennyson attended the Beloved Community Sustaining Change Convening, a multi sector gathering dedicated to advancing equity & antiracist leadership.

The annual **ISL employee Thanksgiving turkey/pumpkin** giveaway will continue this year.