

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARIZONA

# IMPACT REPORT

# 2025/26



# FROM VISION TO IMPACT



**KYLE EDRINGTON**

ISA BOARD CHAIR

The International School of Arizona continues to demonstrate the strength of its mission, **opening doors to success in a constantly changing world**, through a vibrant learning community grounded in academic excellence, global citizenship, and language immersion. This inaugural Annual Impact Report reflects a year of meaningful progress across the school from student achievement and community engagement to campus investments and program innovation. It also highlights the collective efforts of faculty, staff, families, volunteers, donors, and community partners whose support advances the school's mission each day.

As a nonprofit institution, ISA remains committed to transparency, stewardship, and long-term sustainability in service of its students and families. Investments in facilities, educational programming, professional development, financial aid, and community initiatives all contribute directly to the

student experience and the continued growth of the school. The Board of Trustees remains focused on supporting **ISA's Strategic Vision** while preserving the inclusive, internationally minded environment that defines the ISA community. On behalf of the Board, thank you to all who contribute their time, talents, and resources in support of the school and its future.

## ISA BOARD MEMBERS

ERRIN SIMPKINS TRAVERS

ANYA LEWIS

JOSÉ RAMIREZ

JENNIFER HOLSMAN-TETREAUULT

ERIC GLASS

WILLIAM KO

JANELLE GOULARD

JOHN MARZOLPH

PATRICK HEUER

VICTORIA JEANS-BEREZOWSKY

SAMANTHA MICHELIN

JIM MANLEY (*start date 7/1/26*)

MORGANE BEDAW (*start date 7/1/26*)

TALIA J. OFFORD (*start date 7/1/26*)



# OUR MISSION: IN MOTION

## TEACHING & LEARNING

This year reflected an intentional focus on culture and connection across the school community, highlighted by the schoolwide integration of Conscious Discipline. With an emphasis on belonging, emotional safety, and strong relationships, key structures - such as Brain Smart Starts, Advisory and House systems, Hopes and Dreams conferences - were implemented with consistency and purpose. Together, these efforts contributed to a noticeable and meaningful shift in the student experience, fostering a more connected, supportive, and engaged school culture.

## EARLY SCHOOL

This year in Early School, students continued to bring ISA's mission of opening doors to life through daily experiences in French and Spanish immersion. Our youngest learners developed foundational bilingual skills through play, inquiry, and authentic interaction, with language learning embedded in meaningful classroom experiences rather than taught in isolation. Throughout the year, students demonstrated strong growth in both receptive and expressive language, supported by consistent Conscious Discipline practices which strengthened self-regulation and positive relationships across classrooms. Family engagement also deepened this year through Seesaw, with a 50% increase in meaningful documentation of student learning that provided families with a more authentic window into learning and language development.

# LOOKING BACK ON THE YEAR

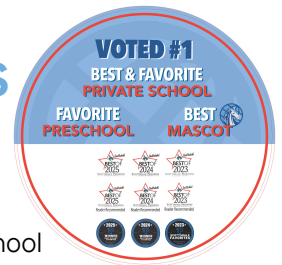
## CURRENT ACCREDITATIONS



Holding all of these accreditations is exceptionally rare, as they represent two national governments and independent accrediting bodies. ISA is proud to be the only school in the world to hold all of these credentials.



## VOTED SCOTTSDALE'S BEST & FAVORITE



For the third year in a row, we were honored as Scottsdale's Best Private School and Best Mascot, while also being named a community Favorite Private School and Favorite Preschool. These recognitions reflect the spirit, pride, and excellence that define our school community.

## CAA MEMBERSHIP

ISA started its membership in the Canyon Athletic Association (CAA), expanding competitive athletic and extracurricular opportunities for our students. This year our middle school chess team earned regional championship recognition and represented ISA with distinction at the CAA State Championship.

## MARIA MERCEDES BERMAN'S RETIREMENT

This school year, we proudly announced the launch of the Maria Mercedes Berman Endowed Scholarship Fund, honoring Maria Mercedes Berman's 17 years of service to ISA as a teacher, colleague, and Director of the Spanish Program. This fund will celebrate her legacy while providing lasting scholarship support for ISA students.

## JOAO BRAS JORGE VOLUNTEER AWARD

We are also pleased to announce that the Joao Bras-Jorge Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Kyle Edrington. As a parent and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Kyle exemplified the spirit of service at the heart of ISA, dedicating countless hours to guiding the school with integrity and keeping students at the center of every decision.

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT

This year, our students demonstrated exceptional academic growth across both math and reading. The data from our MAP testing (Grades 3-8) reflects the strength of our support systems, the dedication of our educators, and the hard work of our students.

**Mathematics:** Our school-wide median percentile jumped from the 57th to the 70th percentile. We also saw a significant shift in performance bands, with more students moving into the highest achievement tiers.

**Reading Proficiency:** Overall student proficiency rose sharply from 65.8% to 76.6%.

**SAT Readiness:** The percentage of students meeting SAT readiness benchmarks surged from 75% to 91.7% (administered to Grades 5-8 only).

## THE BILINGUAL FOUNDATION VS. THE MIDDLE SCHOOL “LEAP”

In the lower elementary grades, immersion students are doing double the cognitive work—simultaneously building academic foundations in two different linguistic systems. Because the MAP test is administered in English, early elementary achievement scores typically reflect standard, solid growth as they map these concepts across languages. Towards the end of Lower School, we see our students’ growth data accelerating.

However, **our Middle School data proves the magic of the long-term model.** The longer students stay at ISA, the more those bilingual cognitive benefits compound. By middle school, they aren't just matching their

monolingual peers—they are soaring past them into that High Achievement / High Growth quadrant. They have deeply mastered the content and developed superior problem-solving skills because their brains have been wired for flexibility.



### The Four Quadrants: Where Our Data Shines

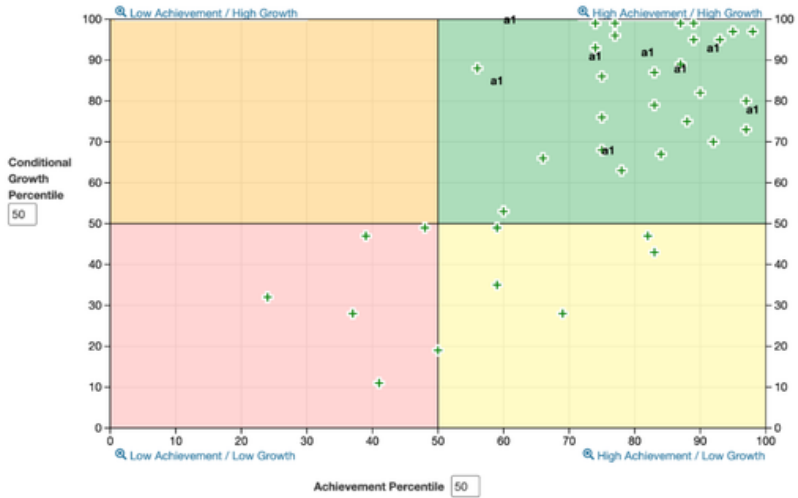
- Top Right: High Achievement / High Growth (The Sweet Spot): Students here score above the 50th percentile nationally and exceeded their individual growth targets.
- Bottom Right: High Achievement / Low Growth: Students score well but didn't hit their growth targets. This is common in high-

performing schools (high-achieving students often have less room to exceed growth targets).

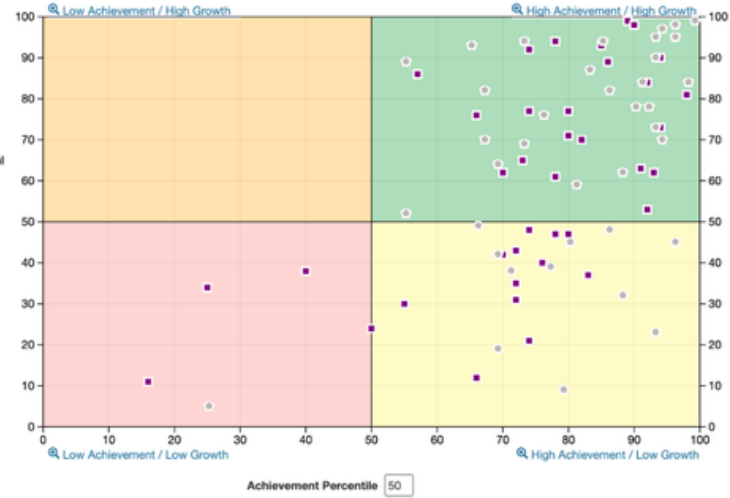
- Top Left: Low Achievement / High Growth: *Students are catching up. They started behind but are growing faster than the national average.*
- Bottom Left: Low Achievement / Low Growth: *Students are achieving below the norm and growing slower than expected.*

### Middle School Math

Grades 6 and 7 take the K-12 Math Assessment while Grade 8 students take both the Algebra and K-12 Math Assessment.



### Middle School Language Usage and Reading



- ✚ K-12 assessment
- a1 Algebra
- Reading
- ⬠ Language Use

It is a powerful testament to the immersion journey, and our middle schoolers are the living proof that this educational investment pays off massively.

**The data clearly shows that the longer students stay at ISA, the higher they perform across all subject areas. Our graduating 8th grade class exemplifies this cumulative success, with performance landing at or near the top quartile nationally.**

Specifically, our 8th graders achieved a 74th median percentile in reading, a 78th median percentile in general math, and a 76th median percentile in algebra.

Our curriculum and support systems are working. Year after year, ISA students aren't just learning; they are consistently accelerating toward the top tier of academic achievement. Again, the data clearly shows that the longer students stay at ISA, the higher they perform across all subject areas and the greater language proficiency they achieve.

\*DELE (Spanish diploma) and DELF (French diploma) data will be shared once official results are received (Fall/Winter 2026).

# ISA PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

This year, ISA's Portrait of a Graduate continued to serve as a guiding framework for student growth and development across all divisions. Through intentional integration into classroom experiences, leadership opportunities, and community engagement, students were supported in developing as curious thinkers, compassionate communicators, and globally minded individuals. Whether engaging in inquiry-based learning, leading service initiatives, collaborating with peers, or reflecting on their personal growth, students consistently demonstrated the core attributes that define an ISA graduate. This shared vision not only shaped the student experience, but also strengthened alignment across teaching, learning, and community, ensuring that every student is prepared to navigate and contribute meaningfully to a constantly changing world.



## CURIOUS PROBLEM SOLVER

I am proud of what I know and am eager to learn and perceive the world in new ways. I make thoughtful decisions, solve problems, and take appropriate risks with my learning. I am not afraid to fail as this allows me to reflect and grow. I believe in my ability to grow and learn.



## COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATOR

I understand the importance of multilingualism and the doors this ability opens for my future. In every interaction, I understand that the ideas and feelings of others are just as important as my own. Understanding that conflict and disagreement are inevitable, I have the skills to facilitate fair, peaceful, and successful resolutions. I am thoughtful, compassionate, empathetic, and effective in my communication.



## INSPIRATIONAL LEADER

I am a leader and understand that my ability to lead begins with my character. My leadership begins with modeling kindness and respect towards others. I build respectful relationships with diverse individuals and groups, building networks to achieve individual and collective goals.



## ADVOCATE OF SELF AND OTHERS

I am an advocate for myself and for others, speaking up for my own rights and the rights of others.



## PURPOSEFUL, AMBITIOUS, BALANCED

I purposely explore my interests and passions. I find ways to serve others, the community, and the world, because I know myself and I am curious about my world. I am prepared to identify an impact only I can make, and I will make it. I strive for balance in my life, knowing it will benefit my personal well-being, and the ways in which I am able to contribute to the world.



## CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

I am a citizen of the world. I know my actions can and do make an impact and my influence begins, with my family, school, and local community. I lead by example in caring for the natural world and for humanity.

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

With continued growth in student leadership and service across the Lower and Middle School. Student-led initiatives such as Palomino Parliament and NJHS expanded their impact, providing meaningful opportunities for students to lead, organize, and contribute to the school community. Students also engaged in a range of community partnerships, including Feed My Starving Children, St. Mary's Food Bank, LovePup, Foster Alliance, and Phoenix Children's Hospital. Together, these experiences reinforced a strong emphasis on real-world impact, service, and student agency.



# AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

This year, we rebranded our auxiliary programs under ISA Trailblazers: *Where Learning and Adventure Meet*, strengthening the identity and vision of these extended learning experiences. Enrollment increased, reflecting strong family engagement and trust, while new enrichment offerings in STEM, financial literacy, and coding expanded student opportunities beyond the classroom. Programs such as Explorer's Den and Camp Pathfinders, further strengthened community connection while contributing meaningfully to the school's financial sustainability. Led by experienced educators and professionals, these programs extended the school day with purpose, providing students with opportunities to explore interests, build skills, and develop friendships in a structured, nurturing environment.



# PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association is the heartbeat of our school, turning everyday moments into lasting memories. We've reimagined our events with better food and bigger prizes, keeping them free so our ISA community can grow closer through joy and connection.



*Ashley Metcalf, Kristen Whitaker, Tabitha Kuehn, and Rene Ko*

From gifting books to our smallest graduates, to cheering on our robotics and chess stars, we make sure every achievement shines. This year, the PA invested \$8,000 towards the magic of the Winter Festival and launched a science partnership with ASU's Barrett Honor College that connects our students with a former ISA alum. To honor our educators, we have increased teacher appreciation funding by 56%, allowing us to celebrate their brilliance with monthly surprises and heartfelt gifts, turning our campus into a place of belonging. Together, we aren't just a school; we are a vibrant community. Thank you for being part of this journey.

## ISA-PA HIGHLIGHTS





# CAMPUS AND INNOVATION

We have been working hard behind the scenes to completely refresh our spaces, ensuring our students have the safest, cleanest, and most modern environment to learn and play this year. We also proudly launched our Capital Campaign, **Drafting Blueprints for Brilliance**, which includes plans for a brand new Activities Center and gymnasium, as well as a reimagined third floor. *Click our campaign logo below to learn more:*



## FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- \* We upgraded our campus with newly replaced sun awnings, enhancing both comfort and functionality across our outdoor spaces.
- \* We enhanced our current athletic facilities by replacing and adding new turf to the soccer field, creating a safer and more dynamic space for play and competition.
- \* With student health and safety as a top priority, we fully replaced the handrails on our main staircases, ensuring a more secure and reliable environment for daily use.
- \* We also implemented a new flooring system designed to prioritize waxed, clean, and well-maintained surfaces, further improving the overall cleanliness and upkeep of our campus.
- \* We transformed the robotics room into a dedicated, purpose-built learning space with a built-in stage, creating a more modern and flexible environment.

# THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy at ISA during the 2025/26 school year generated \$324,848 in support of the Annual Fund, reflecting sustained community investment across all giving areas. A standout achievement was our Spring Soirée, which alone contributed \$174,300 - marking it as one of our most successful events to date.

This year also saw record-breaking community engagement, with overall family participation rising to 78% compared to 66% in 24/25. Participation within our French track families increased to 54% (up from 50%), while Spanish track families reached an exceptional 97% participation (up from 78%), reflecting a deeply connected and committed school community. These results demonstrate the growing strength of ISA philanthropy and the “power of we” in action. The Annual Fund continues to play a vital role in bridging the gap between tuition revenue and operational needs, directly supporting professional development, school security, financial aid, and programming and innovation across campus.



25/26 ANNUAL FUND  
HONOR ROLL HERE



Total Annual Fund Raised

**\$324,848**



Family Participation

**78%**



Raised at the Soiree

**\$174,300**



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Anonymous Donor

\* A \$15,000 donation supported ISA's investment in Conscious Discipline this year, enabling 8 team members to attend the weeklong CD1 training in Phoenix. The training strengthened relationship-centered, regulation-based practices across the school, with educators emphasizing safety, connection, empathy, and adult self-regulation to support student success and emotional growth.



## SCHOOL SECURITY

Desert Ridge Oral Surgery Institute (Dr. Golbarg Pourkomami & Dr. Vishy Broumand)

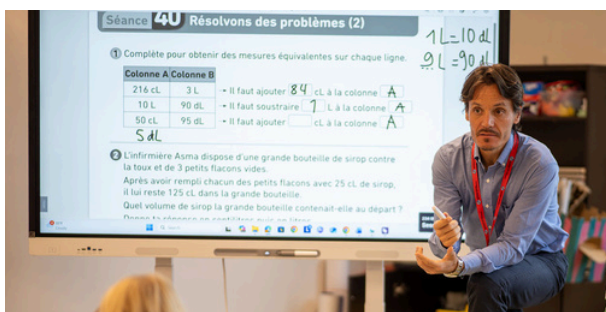
\* This year, ISA'S business partner, Desert Ridge Oral Surgery Institute, generously funded a new camera security system. The enhanced system provides additional security coverage for outdoor spaces, common areas, and select learning environments, helping strengthen a safe and supportive campus for students, staff, and families.



## FINANCIAL AID

Annual Fund Donations

\* This year, the Annual Fund played a vital role in supporting \$425,000 in financial aid, helping open doors for students and families seeking an exceptional educational experience in a constantly changing world. These contributions made it possible for more students to access a transformative experience.



## PROGRAMMING & INNOVATION

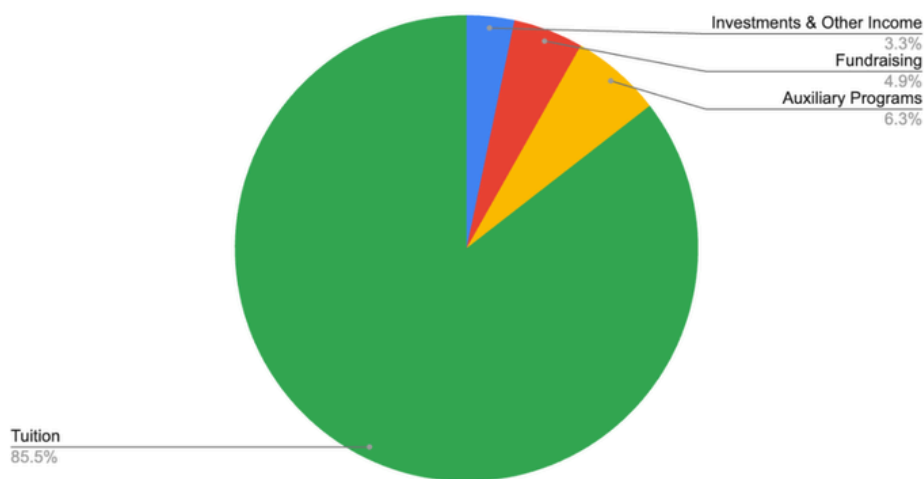
Annual Fund Donations

\* This year, Annual Fund dollars funded 11 new SMART interactive panels for Grades 3 through Middle School, enhancing both teaching and learning. These boards support hands-on, collaborative lessons and modern, tech-integrated instruction that prepares students for the future.

# FINANCIAL HEALTH

## \* REVENUE

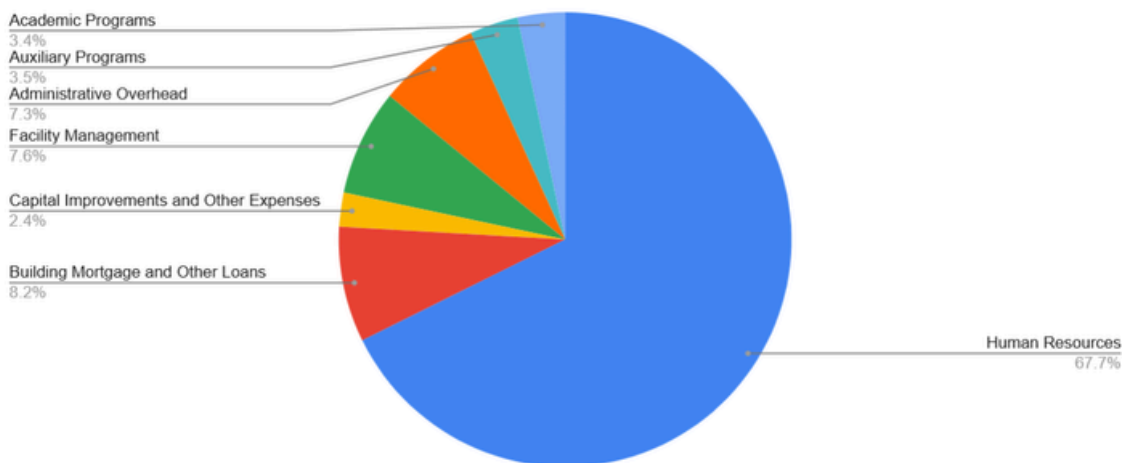
While tuition remains the primary source of operating revenue, ISA's annual budget is also supported by auxiliary programs and community fundraising initiatives. Each year, the Board of Trustees approves a comprehensive budget that reflects these combined revenue streams, ensuring alignment with both daily operations and long-term institutional priorities. For the most recent fiscal year, the Board approved a \$7.4 million budget to support core operations, capital improvements, and debt service obligations. This diversified revenue approach strengthens ISA's financial foundation and helps sustain the breadth of programs and services offered to students and families.



## \* EXPENSES

The majority of ISA's operating expenses are dedicated to human resources, reflecting the school's commitment to recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty and staff. In the past year, 75.7% of expenditures supported salaries, benefits, J1 visa sponsorships, recruitment, and other human resource related costs. Additional spending is directed toward academic programs, including classroom materials, curriculum resources, educational technology, and accreditation, as well as auxiliary programs such as after-school enrichment, tutoring, and camps that enhance the student experience. Administrative costs include marketing, professional development, utilities, insurance, and facility maintenance.

The Board also approved a \$140,000 capital expenditure budget, funding improvements such as classroom furniture, SMART boards, security upgrades, HVAC repairs, and playground enhancements. These investments support a strong learning environment while helping to reduce long-term maintenance needs.



# LOOKING FORWARD

As we reflect on the remarkable milestones achieved this year, our focus turns toward an exciting horizon for the International School of Arizona. Our primary strategic goals for the coming term will focus on elevating our French and Spanish immersion curricula, strengthening our community and international partnerships, and upgrading our campus infrastructure. Central to this vision is the launch of our new capital campaign, **Drafting Blueprints for Brilliance**, which will fund the modernization of our learning spaces and expand opportunities for every student. We also remain deeply committed to continuing to ensure our 8th-grade graduates are exceptionally prepared to gain admission into the most rigorous high schools in the area.

Achieving these ambitious goals requires the collective energy and enthusiasm of our entire ISA family. We invite you to remain deeply involved by participating in our vibrant ISA-PA initiatives, volunteering for cultural events, and supporting the **Drafting Blueprints for Brilliance** campaign through philanthropy or advocacy. Additionally, we are embarking on an impending Head of School search to identify the right leader to guide us into the future, with their official tenure beginning July 1, 2027. Your insights and engagement during this transition will be vital in ensuring we select a leader who champions our mission of global success.



**JASON SMITH**

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, and I look forward to working hand-in-hand with each of you to make the coming year our most impactful one yet.

## ISA 2026 Graduate High School Matriculation

- Notre Dame Preparatory High School (Honors)
- Brophy College Preparatory (*Admissions with Highest Honors*)
- Desert Mountain High School (*IB Program*)

***“ISA has prepared me with the skills and confidence to succeed in honors classes in high school”*** - Ethan. T (Class of 2026)

***“I liked smaller classes because teachers have the time to work closely with you and make sure you really get the material.”***

- Julian. H (Class of 2026)



**INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF ARIZONA**