



A Message from Jason Smith

Dear ISA Students, Parents, Faculty, and Friends,

It is with a heart full of gratitude and a bit of "senior-year" emotion that I share some personal news with you today. After what will be six incredible years leading this community, I have informed the Board of Trustees that I will be concluding my tenure as Head of School at the end of the 2026/2027 school year, effectively June 30, 2027.

I wanted to share this news now because transparency and stability have always been the cornerstones of my leadership. This news was also shared with the ISA team earlier today. By announcing this today, we ensure a smooth, thoughtful transition over the next 16 months - allowing us to celebrate our successes while preparing the school for its next great chapter.

My decision is deeply tied to the rhythm of my own family. As many of you know, my daughter graduates high school this spring, and my son will follow her across the stage in May, 2027. As they step into their futures, my wife and I realized this was the natural transition point for our family to embark on a new adventure as well. While we don't know what our next steps are, we feel a transition is right given the other family transitions happening simultaneously.

Reflecting on these past six years, I am immensely proud of what we have built together. We navigated the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, and we didn't just survive - we thrived. Since then, we have:

- **Grown our enrollment by over 50%**, welcoming so many new families into our community.
- **Balanced our budget and fortified our facilities**, ensuring a strong foundation for the future.
- **Gained local, state, and international recognition**, earning Best Private School in Scottsdale, additional international accreditations, and more!
- **Achieved a world-first:** With our recent International Spanish Academics accreditation, we are now the only school in the world to hold all four major accreditations.

ISA is a special place, and while I am looking forward to my final year and a half with you, my focus remains entirely on our students and the work still ahead. There is much to do before June 2027, and I intend to make every moment count. I look forward to spending the next 16 months with each of you. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me for a coffee and connection.

With warmth and appreciation,

Jason Smith

Head of School





A Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear ISA Community,

On behalf of the ISA Board of Trustees, we want to express our deepest thanks to Jason Smith for his incredible leadership and unwavering commitment to ISA during his tenure.

When Jason joined our community six years ago, he stepped into a world of uncertainty. Under his guidance, ISA did more than just weather the storm; it emerged stronger, larger, and more prestigious than ever before. To be the only school globally with four specific accreditations is a testament to the growth and incredible development ISA has experienced during Jason's tenure.

While we were saddened to learn of Jason's planned departure, we fully support his decision to align his transition with his children's graduations. We are also incredibly grateful for the generous timeline he has provided. This "long runway" will allow the Board to conduct a comprehensive, global search for a successor who will build upon the remarkable momentum Jason and his team have created. For that purpose the Board has selected Educators Collaborative to assist in this search.

In the coming weeks and months, the Board will share more details regarding the search process and how our community will be involved. Rest assured there will be opportunities for all members of our community (teachers, staff, parents and of course students) to meet the finalists and provide feedback. A general timeline is listed below with more specifics being shared later. For now, please join us in thanking Jason for his transformative service and continued dedication to ISA.

The future of ISA is bright, and we look forward to finishing this chapter strong alongside Jason. Sincerely,

Kyle Edrington

Chair, Board of Trustees

Errin Simpkins Travers

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees





General Timeline/Next Steps for Head of School Search

- [Educators Collaborative](#) has been selected as the search firm to conduct ISA's Head of School Search. (Educators Collaborative conducted the search when Jason was selected in January 2021.)
- Search Consultants from Educators Collaborative conduct a site visit at ISA, April/May 2026
- Candidate Dossier Review, July 2026
- Semi-Finalists Interviews, Late August 2026

** Please note: This is a tentative timeline and some adjustments may need to be made. Later this spring, ISA will have a dedicated webpage to our Head of School Search with more specific information and updates.

