**ISU NEWS**

**15 MAY 2020**

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**Important Dates:**
- 18-29 May: MS exams to take place within this time
- 25-29 May: Grade 9 and 11 exams
- 28 May: Grade 5 Exhibition
- 29 June - 2 July: Grade 10 Pre-IB week
- 2 July: Reports cards issued.
- 2 July: Last day for students

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**News from the Director**

**ISU and Government Directives on Schools Partially Re-opening**

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during the last few weeks. I am extremely appreciative of our students, parents, teachers, and staff, for their positivity, flexibility and resilience during these trying times. Last week we were in frequent contact with the Schulamt and Bayern Kultusministerium to determine how these partial re-opening directives would apply to ISU considering our uniqueness. Despite initial support, this week the Schulamt in consultation with the Bayern Kultusministerium have asked us to refine some of our Lower School measures to be more in line with the German state schools with regard to the length of the school day. However, we are now permitted to bring back both Grades 4 and 5, EYP 1 and 2 (from 25 May), and have permission to have face to face “check-ins” for Grades 2 and 3 prior to their return on 15 June. These exemptions are very much appreciated.

On our own and in conjunction with the Association of German International School (AGIS), The Association of International School of Bavaria (AISB), and some individual international school families (including some from ISU) we are continuing to lobby and explain the unique situation of international schools to the Bayern Kultusministerium and respective Schulämter. Our objective is to lengthen the day for Lower School students and move forward the timeline for some grades returning, without in any way compromising the safety and well-being of children and staff. Our arguments centre around our specific curriculum needs and our holiday structure that is different to the German state school system.

If we are successful in this objective, more positive changes to our partial re-opening plan will be required and we will, of course, communicate this to you. Again, I thank you for your understanding and patience on this.

**This Week at ISU**

We began with another first this week, the partial re-opening of the school campus and the blending of e-learning and classroom-based learning. We have been working with a medical/hygiene supplier and our betriebsrat doctor to ensure all precautions are being considered and acted upon. As I’ve stated previously, this is far from a normal school year and as we’re all aware this will not be a regular re-opening with everything returning to normal. It has been a difficult time that demands a lot from people and now it demands a little more from each of us. In order to maintain high standards of safety and hygiene, everyone in the ISU community is taking responsibility for themselves and for each other.

This week, students who were on campus were frequently being reminded of the importance of maintaining social distance. Even more than before, school is a safe, clean place for them to be able to see their friends and teachers. Although the layout is different, the people are the same and that is the best thing to focus your child’s thoughts on right now. I would like to congratulate those students who were in the building this week for the manner in which they made the adjustment.
Lengthy communications have gone to you regarding how and under what conditions the campus reopened. Parents are encouraged to contact homeroom teachers, and of course, the respective principals or myself should they have any concerns or questions. That is always part of our communication chain and we appreciate that a direct, clear and accurate line of communication between parents and school is most important now.

Please also note that government information is constantly being received and redefined, and we will update our measures accordingly if needed. Families have the discretion to keep their child at home until 15 June. They would continue classes via e-learning and this would not have an impact on Schulpflicht.

In closing, one of our main focus points for our educators and students during the 2019-2020 school year has been having a “growth mindset.” I talked about a growth mindset at the Back to School Nights at the beginning of the school year. A growth mindset unlocks our ability to learn and grow especially during challenging times. Little did I know how important this growth mindset would be for all of us this year! Because of this experience and our growth mindset, I believe we all will be stronger when we come out on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic! It is no exaggeration to say that history is being written with this pandemic; however, we hold the pen! Together, we will write the best story for ISU students!

**Bavaria Gradually Re-opens**

I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on how Bavaria will be gradually re-opening over the coming weeks. From the recent press conferences, both the federal and Länder governments feel that the coronavirus is under control.

Nonetheless, they are being prudent and cautious with regard to re-opening. Physical distancing and rules on masks remains in place.

- 6 May - it is allowed to visit family members (keep the distance of 1.5m)
- 11 May - museums, zoos, ... open
- 18 May - beer gardens open until 20:00
- 25 May - restaurants open until 22:00
- 30 May - hotels open

Like everywhere, the government will be monitoring the numbers and infection rate, and these dates could be subject to change.

*Dr Liam Browne*
*Director*

**Reminder Enrolment for Next Year**

All ISU families should have received a letter on 30 April outlining the tuition fee structure and payment options for the 2020/2021 school year. If you have not received this letter please contact invoice@is-ulm.de.

Please be aware that ISU needs to be informed by 31 May, at the latest, if a student is not returning in August 2020. If you child(ren) is not returning to ISU in August please contact Manuela Oberfrank at m.oberfrank@is-ulm.de
**MS/US Students Return**

*Welcome back to MSUS, changes to end of year exams and options*

In Middle and Upper school some students are back on campus and some stay at home distance learning. This blended approach will be used as we move forward and will allow all of our students to continue their progress through this unique time. It was fantastic to be back in the building and see the students though, I’m sure those of you who are at home this week are looking forward to coming back too.

All of these changes to school life, e-learning, A/B groups and hygiene rules have created challenges for us in a variety of ways. Our primary focus is the health and physical well being of our students and it is great to see the students who are in the building following the hygiene and distancing protocol. It is something we are all getting used to!

I’m sure we can all agree that this is far from a normal school year. To accommodate all of these changes and the way in which learning is taking place we have amended our end of year assessments. In Grades 6 to 9, students will not take examinations for their assessments but have extended activities and smaller tests to allow them to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Most of these assessments will take place over the next two weeks. The Grade 9 semester assessments will also have a reduced weighting of 25%. The Grade 11 students will have their end of year examinations during the week of May 25-29. Given the adverse conditions our students have had to work in over the last two months we have also reduced the weighting of these exams to 25%. Teachers have been having conversations with students about their end of year assessments and information regarding the content, duration and style have been shared with all groups.

Here at ISU we are already planning for next year and over the next few days I will be sending emails to parents of Grade 7, 8, and 9 students about their option choices for next year (2020-21). Grade 10 students have already received information from Mr Tomes about their IB choices. The email will contain a Google Form to fill in. Please discuss this with your child(ren) and complete and submit the form by May 30 (IB Choices May 25).

If there are any questions about examinations or subject choices please feel free to get in touch with subject teachers or me.

We wish the students the best of luck in their assessments over the coming weeks.

*Mr Lee Rawlinson*

*Middle and Upper School Principal*
It's that time of year again!
Birds are singing and bees are buzzing, and as nature celebrates a new season, we at ISU celebrate the achievements of our EAL students.

During the past few weeks the EAL students have been working with diligence and huge excitement on their individual projects, ranging from magic shows to scientific experiments and even unsolved mysteries. To showcase what the students have been learning in their language acquisition, and how far they have come with their mastery of English, we have woven together a website where the students' work can be seen in video and images.

So, grab the popcorn, kick up your heels, click on the link and join our EAL students on their exciting journey of learning.

https://sites.google.com/is-ulm.de/isu-eal/home

Mrs Michelle Golledge
EAL Teacher

As a community that celebrates multiculturalism and cultivates multilingualism and bilingualism, we recognise the additional challenges presented to our students who are learning English as an additional language. Our school community respects and celebrates our EAL students' cultural and linguistic diversity and in that same spirit, we wanted to create a special space for our lower school EAL students to showcase some of their work. This platform gives them the opportunity to present their achievements and celebrate their individual learning strengths. We hope that you enjoy it as much as the students enjoyed working on their various projects.

-Michelle Golledge EAL Teacher-

Photos from pre-corona classroom time
Grade 11 CAS has begun a new project to support the charities SOS Kinderdörfer and World Wildlife Fund. To raise proceeds, they will use the site FundMate to purchase a variety of products such as socks and towels all created by people with disabilities in need of work. They plan to sell the products at ISU in order to raise money. Keep an eye out for upcoming newsletters and the ISU Facebook page for updates and advertisements once available. Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your hard work

Sincerely,

Valentina
Grade 11

For more information the World Wildlife Fund click [here](#)

For more information about SOS Kinderdorf click [here](#)
Making it work

During the last few weeks we have continued with our Emergency Care support and this week we were able to welcome more students back into our building. It's been wonderful to see things slowly return to some semblance of normal. While things are different, the good news is that we are still a lively learning community where students and teachers are once again spending time together, while physically distanced, of course.

The spaces may look a little different and there are systems in place for increased hygiene, ways to walk through the hallways, and entrance and exit procedures. However we can still laugh, learn, and play together. Here are some images from this week as we welcomed more of our community back.

Ms Heidi Bachman
Lower School Principal
During distance learning, teachers set a variety of tasks. We did not only aim for goals in German as a subject and concentrated on our UoI, but also aimed for other interdisciplinary targets. We did entries in the poetry album, read aloud and photographed flowers. In Grade 3, we encouraged the students’ imagination by not only describing the appearance of Roman buildings or explaining their purpose, but by letting them build the Colosseum and aqueducts. This is how these pictures were created. Besides the Roman architecture, we looked at the clothing of free Roman citizens. One garment free men wore was the Toga.

Through the posts on Seesaw, the teachers got to know their students in their home environment. We saw them jumping on the trampoline, dancing in the garden and playing in the living room. I quickly recognized that to know them in their home environment is an advantage of the quarantine. So I decided to show the students more of me as well. In a video, I showed examples of entries from my own diary before I gave students the task to write a poetry album entry themselves.

_Frau Gabi Güntke_  
_German Teacher_

Samuel built the Colosseum in Rome.  
Saha made her own poetry booklet.  
Nidhi wrote a spring poem.  
Oskar showed us his Mother’s Day card.  
Victoria-Sophie wrote an entry into the poetry album.  
Sema’s Aquaduct
Thank You

for making our surprise for the ISU Staff Celebration Day a real success. We ended up creating a 2-minute video with the 75 pics/drawings you sent us.

Contact Us:

Feel free to contact us, via email at: ptg@is-ulm.de or via the ISU School Community WhatsApp Group.

And of course, if you are not yet on this WhatsApp group, just send me a message to: +49 160 98187900 and I will add you with pleasure.

Have a lovely weekend,

PTG