Newsletter
31.08.2023

Middle and Upper School Agreements
Morning Connection
Introduction of new Community members
After School Activity and Sport Programme
Wildly organised - First week of Middle School
Miscellaneous
Join us for a Lower School Parent Connection Morning focused on enhancing your engagement with your child’s education through PowerSchool and Toddle. Discover how to navigate these platforms effectively, gaining insights into your child’s academic progress and communication with teachers. Whether you’re a tech-savvy parent or just getting started, this interactive session will provide valuable tips and tricks for maximising your experience with these tools. Stay till the end for a dedicated Q&A troubleshooting session, where Mr. Bailey will address your queries and help resolve any challenges you might be facing. Strengthen the parent-school partnership and empower your involvement in your child’s learning journey.

Please [sign-up](#) to give us an indication of numbers by Sunday 10th September 2023. We look forward to connecting with you and fostering a more informed and engaged parent community.
We are pleased to highlight a recent initiative that has brought our students together to contribute their thoughts on our school’s guidelines. Our Essential Agreements project, which stemmed from our existing code of conduct, provided students with an opportunity to collaborate within their homerooms, creating a sense of shared ownership and understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

Rooted in Collaboration

The foundation of our school’s guidelines, the Code of Conduct, served as a starting point for this project. Students were encouraged to build upon these existing principles, with each homeroom fostering discussions on respectful behavior and positive classroom dynamics. This collaborative approach allowed students to take an active role in shaping their learning environment.

Uniting Diverse Perspectives

One of the project’s strengths is the diverse range of perspectives that have been woven into the Essential Agreements. Through dialogue and sharing, students from various backgrounds and experiences contributed their viewpoints. This inclusive process emphasized the importance of respect and understanding for differing opinions, fostering a greater sense of unity within our school community.

Guidance from Educators

Our dedicated educators played a vital role in guiding students through this process. By sharing their expectations, teachers provided valuable insights that helped students consider their responsibilities as learners. This guidance not only empowered students to take ownership of their educational experience but also instilled crucial life skills such as effective communication and teamwork.

Recognizing Rights and Responsibilities

Crafting these Essential Agreements led students to reflect on their rights as learners and the corresponding responsibilities. Through thoughtful discussions, students explored the balance between individual freedoms and the collective well-being of the school community. This process deepened their appreciation for the mutual respect required to maintain a positive atmosphere for everyone.

Nurturing Community Growth

The development of Essential Agreements marks a significant step in our journey as a school community. It underscores our shared commitment to cultivating an inclusive and respectful environment for all. As we implement these agreements, we reinforce our dedication to fostering personal growth, open communication, and mutual respect.

Lee Rawlinson
Middle and Upper School Principal
New and returning ISU Community members

I am Emil Zamora from the Philippines. I will be an incoming 5th Grade Lower School Teacher in ISU. I have been working as an Elementary Teacher in North Carolina USA at Pines Elementary School and in South Carolina USA at Sandel Elementary School for the past four years teaching 4th and 5th grade Math, English Reading and Language, Science, and Social Studies. In my teaching experience in the United States, I have been trained to undertake differentiation and Data-Driven instruction, where I usually do for progress monitoring and planning to address each of my students’ learning styles and needs especially in Reading, Language and Math. I’ve been working also as an Elementary Homeroom Teacher in an international school, private and public schools in the Philippines for seven and a half years teaching K-6 Math, Reading and Language, Science, Social Studies, Arts, Music, Physical Education and Health. During my tenure of seven and a half years, I have been a coach and trainer of different school competitions, like journalism, Math clubs, Science fairs, Art and Music festivals, school plays, and became one of the guest speakers during District Inset Training for Teachers.

In my teaching career, I was awarded an Excellence in Cultural Ambassadorship – as an EPI Local Liaison for international teachers, Excellence in Service Awards, a Certificate of Recognition – as a Resource Speaker during the 2015 In-Service Training of the Department of Education in Music, a Certificate of Recognition in IT-Integration Program. I am also a certified AVID teacher who provides career-ready instructions to prepare students to be successful in college in the future. I am always committed to creating a classroom atmosphere that is stimulating and encouraging to students. I love arts and music which I always incorporate in my planning. I also enjoy doing read-aloud, guided reading, and math-stimulating activities for my students. My strong initiative and ability to cater to a diverse range of learners allow me to thrive in a challenging teaching environment.

My name is Melisa Sara Cicek.
Many of you may already know me.
I started here three years ago in the position of German B teacher when I covered for Ms. Fennes during her maternity leave.
This school year I will return as a full time teacher in the position of the new German A teacher and I am really looking forward to it.
I think it’s nice to know a little bit about the person behind your child’s teacher, so I’ll introduce myself.

I am 28 years old and I was born and raised in Ulm.
My last name “Cicek” is Turkish and means “flower”, which is why many kids at school call me Miss Flower and that’s totally fine.
Why do I have a Turkish last name?
My grandparents came to Germany in the 60’s as guest workers from Italy and Turkey and settled here in Ulm.

So I had the privilege to grow up multicultural as well as trilingual.
Now being a part of this school makes me very proud.
How do I spend my free time?
My hobbies include traveling, reading, art and my work, but the biggest and most beautiful part of my life is my 6 year old son.

I look forward to meeting everyone soon and wish everyone a great start to the 2023/24 school year.
Seda Kocharyan has approximately 15 years of teaching experience and has held leadership positions in the field of education. She began her teaching career as a history teacher at a private college, and later took on the roles of IB DP CAS coordinator, TOK and History teacher. After relocating to Russia, she became an IB continuum coordinator, overseeing and managing the entire education system from elementary school to high school. In China, she had the opportunity to serve as an MYP personal project coordinator, supporting students’ agency in the community.

She has an eleven-year-old daughter who will be joining the ISU family. She is a very friendly person who enjoys traveling and exploring different countries and cultures. She is thrilled to join the ISU family and share her experience with her students and colleagues. Her motto in life is “Be the change you wish to see in the world” - M. Gandhi.

Having previously been a part of the ISU Administrative team as a receptionist, Tatiana is excited once again to be a part of the ISU community and to contribute her skills and experience, this time as a member of the HR Team.

Born in Russia, her pursuit of education and enthusiasm for travel and culture led her to the USA, where fate intervened, introducing her to her German husband. Following several years in the United States, Tatiana started a new chapter in Germany, where she lives together with her husband and daughter since 2007.

Myriam Mojica is excited to come back as an inclusion specialist within the ISU student support team. She is very eager to come back to the ISU community. She will be working closely with the students, parents, teachers and staff.

She was born in Mexico and she is a Psychologist and obtained a Master in Special Educational Needs from University of Leeds and a Ph.D on Inclusive Education from University of Manchester. Her PhD dissertation won first prize as the best research for children with disabilities by UNICEF in 2013. She is a specialist on the topics of Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Diversity and has experience in Education, Psychology and Research. She speaks four languages and lived in 4 countries. Her hobbies are to spend time with her family and to travel.
It is with great excitement that we announce the restart of our After School Activities and Sports Programmes.

This year our after school activities program will have the same number of seasons as the sports program, this will help with communication as all extracurricular activities will have the same start and end dates. The dates for each season are as follows:

Season 1 – September 4th to November 17th  
Season 2 – January 8th to March 22nd  
Season 3 – April 8th to May 30th

Activities for will be offered four days a week Monday - Thursday

The list of activities is as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Description of Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Age Range and Student Numbers</th>
<th>Any costs and other details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball - Ratiopharm Basketball Coaches and Ms. Wellner 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Sports Hall</td>
<td>Grade 1 - 5 Max: 20 Students</td>
<td>No additional cost Meeting Point: playground</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance EY3-G1- Mrs. Vanessa 3:15-4:15 P.M.</td>
<td>Room: B104</td>
<td>EY3-Gr 1 Max: 12 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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### Tuesday

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<tr>
<th>Description of Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Age Range and Student Numbers</th>
<th>Any costs and other details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invention Club - Student-Led</strong></td>
<td>Room: C208</td>
<td>Grade 1-5 Max: 12 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Mr. Gillot 3:15 - 4:15 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In our invention club we are encouraging children to use creative thinking skills to design innovative inventions using recycled materials. Activities will range from crafting Rube Goldberg machines to designing model bridges.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ISU Student Media Team - Student-Led and Mr. Gillot</strong></td>
<td>Room: C209</td>
<td>Grade 9-12 Min: 6 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<td>3:30-4:30 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A space where you can express your creativity through writing, photography or film developing your media skills</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yoga/ Mindfulness for Elementary</strong></td>
<td>Room: B201</td>
<td>Grade EY3-Grade 2 Max: 8 students</td>
<td>There’s a cost involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yoga is a practice that connects the body, breath, and mind. It uses physical postures, breathing exercises, and meditation to improve overall health. Join us!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Technicolor Group - Ms. Habbeck</strong></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Grade 9-12</td>
<td>If you are interested in being part of this group, please email Ms. Habbeck (<a href="mailto:s.habbeck@is-ulm.de">s.habbeck@is-ulm.de</a>) or Mrs. Bailey (<a href="mailto:a.bailey@is-ulm.de">a.bailey@is-ulm.de</a>) to find out more information about meeting time and location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45-4:45 P.M.</td>
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<td>This is an Upper School club for students interested in becoming part of an active group to create a safe space to learn more about and be a part of LGBTQIA+ community and other social advocacy issues. We will enjoy learning about everything from Heartstopper or Everybody’s Talking about Jamie to current events in the news. We will watch films, listen to music and read about what is happening in the LGBTQIA+ world and other social advocacy issues. We can become an active part of the ISU community to raise awareness, take action and teach, but first and foremost is creating a community space where all identities are welcome.</td>
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### Wednesday

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<tr>
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<th>Any costs and other details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kodu Club - Mr. Gillot</strong></td>
<td>Room C209</td>
<td>Grade 5-12 Max: 16 Students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45-4:45 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop your coding skills and how to develop games using the game design program, Kodu. Learn to design a 3D game world and programming characters and objects which populate its landscape. All aspects of the world are customisable – its dimensions, terrain, landscape features, animate and inanimate objects, even sounds and background music. Students can also edit and remix pre-existing worlds and learn from their peers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maths club with Mrs. Rodriguez</strong></td>
<td>Room: B101</td>
<td>Grade 3-5 Max: 10 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 - 4:15 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>We will be learning games and strategies to increase speed and accuracy in computation (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). There will also be weekly challenges to be done alone or with a partner, and these might include problems about time, measurement, fractions, decimals, shape and space, etc. We are looking for thinkers who like to work in a team!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Turkish Language and Culture Club</strong></td>
<td>Room: B207</td>
<td>Grade EY3-8 Max: 10 students</td>
<td>No additional cost</td>
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<td>3:30-4:15 P.M.</td>
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<td>Come learn and engage in language and cultural activities for all.</td>
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## Thursdays

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</thead>
</table>
| **Outdoor Skill Club - Mrs. Thomas** 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.  
A varied selection of outdoor activities and skills inspired by the UK Beaver Scout programme. | Outside in the Outdoor learning area and grass towards the C-wing | Grades 2 - 5  
Max: 8 Students | No additional cost |
| **Coding, Ms. Pugh** 3:15-4:15 P.M.  
Students will learn the basic elements of coding using hands-on activities and the coding language "Blocky." | B203 | Grade 3-5  
Max: 15 students | |
| **Macramé - Ms. Garcia** 3:45 - 4:45 P.M.  
Macramé club: the aim is to create small decoration items using the macramé technique. It consists in using different types of knots. The macramé technique requires the use of fine motor skills. Our goal is to create decoration objects such as plant pot hangers, Christmas decorations and other seasonal items. | C206 | Grades 5 - 12  
Max: 10 students | No additional cost |
| **Dance Club - Student-Led & Mr. Alex** 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.  
In this ASAP we will get moving with some choreographed dances! We are open to all types of dances and will happily dance the students’ favourite dances. Students are required to bring a water bottle and wear sports clothing. We look forward to meeting you all! | B202 | Grades 2 - 5  
Max: 15 students | No additional cost |
| **Yoga/Mindfulness for Elementary** 3:15-4:15 P.M.  
Yoga is a practice that connects the body, breath, and mind. It uses physical postures, breathing exercises, and meditation to improve overall health. Join us! | B207 | Grade 3 - 5  
Max: 8 students | No additional cost |

Regarding our Sports Program, we will be able to offer the following sports for Season 1:

- **U14 Girls Football - Coach: Mr. Notz**  
  ◊ Practices on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30pm until 5pm.  
  ◊ Game Dates:  
    - October 7th at Munich International School (Friendly Matches)  
    - October 24th at International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm (Friendly Matches)  
    - September 23rd at International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm (Friendly Tournament)  
    *To be confirmed.*  
    - November 16th-18th at International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm (Final Tournament)

- **U14 Boys Football - Coach: Mr. Stewart**  
  ◊ Practices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30pm until 5pm.  
  ◊ Game Dates:  
    - October 5th at Bavarian International School (Friendly Matches)  
    - October 7th at Munich International School (Friendly Tournament)  
    - October 24th at International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm (Friendly Matches)  
    - November 16th-18th at Bavarian International School (Final Tournament)

- **Varsity Boys Football - Coach: Mr. Stewart**  
  ◊ Practices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30pm until 5pm.  
  ◊ Game Dates:  
    - October 12th at Bavarian International School (Friendly Matches)  
    - October 21st at International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm (Friendly Tournament)  
    - November 22nd-November 24th at Berlin International School (Final Tournament)

- **U14/Varsity Cross Country - Coaches: Mrs. Mayoral and Mr. Finlay**  
  ◊ Practices on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm until 5pm.  
  ◊ Game Dates:  
    - October 7th at Bavarian International School (Friendly Tournament)  
    - November 9th - November 10th at Leipzig International School (Final Tournament)

- **Varsity Girls Volleyball - Coach: Mr. Nuru**  
  ◊ Practices on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30pm until 5pm.  
  ◊ Game Dates:  
    - October 12th at Bavarian International School (Friendly Matches)  
    - October 14th at Franconian International School (Friendly Matches)  
    - October 21st at Stuttgart International School – To be confirmed.  
    - October 24th at International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm (Friendly Matches)  
    - November 30th-December 2nd at St. George’s Dusseldorf (Final Tournament)

- **Varsity Boys Volleyball - Coach: Mr. Nuru**  
  ◊ Game Dates:
For Season 1, starting on Monday, September 4th (except for Badminton), the sign up process is open and available on ISU School cloud for both ASAP and Sport activities. Registrations will remain open until September 30th. Please note that ASAP activities will be limited to twice a week per child. This is to ensure as equitable distribution as possible and we will monitor and review depending on demand for the range of activities.

If parents select more than two activities per child in the first instance, ISU reserves the right to define which two choices stand. However, if spare capacity remains once signups are complete, we will reopen those activities for additional signups irrespective of other activities.

Follow this link to sign up or scan the QR code:

We look forward to seeing you at our activities and sports. Let’s go Wolves!

Alexandre Alves
Athletics Director and After School Activities Coordinator

Get involved with Sports and After School activities!

Dear ISU community, we are always looking for ways to improve our both programmes, so if you would like to join this journey by leading or assisting an activity or even going on some of the sports trips as a chaperone, let us know.

In order to make it happen you need to do a Police Check (Erweitertes Führungszeugnis). School provides a confirmation form that parents can give to the authorities (Bürgerbüro). If you would like to know more and be considered for a role as a volunteer, please get in touch with me: a.alves@is-ulm.de or our Human Resources Department: hr@is-ulm.de

Looking forward to seeing you involved with our ASAP and Sports Programmes.
Let’s go Wolves!
Mastering Self-Management Outdoors!

Those of you who attended our Back to School Night earlier this week will know that I am passionate about outdoor learning and extending learning beyond the classroom walls. This year, we have built it into the schedule and will see each grade have at least one dedicated session per week outside. Our teachers will design learning activities which drive and complement our units of inquiry, as well as developing stand-alone sessions.

Outdoor learning engages children in a dynamic environment where they encounter real-world challenges and opportunities. When children explore nature, they develop a heightened sense of observation, curiosity and problem-solving. This natural setting offers a unique platform to foster the PYP’s Approaches to Learning Skills (AtL) and as is fitting for the start of the year, I would like to focus on Self-Management skills.

Connecting Self-Management with Outdoor Learning

Self-Management is a cornerstone of your child’s personal and academic development. It encompasses qualities such as goal setting, time management, organisation, emotional regulation, and adaptability. What better way to cultivate these skills than through the enriching experiences of outdoor learning?

How you can help:

As parents, you also play an indispensable role in enhancing your child’s Self-Management skills through outdoor experiences:

**Exploration:** Embark on outdoor adventures together, hike, garden, or simply observe nature together. Model Self-Management skills by planning, preparing, and navigating. Use these moments to discuss emotions, challenges, and the joy of discovery.

**Conversations under the Sky:** Capitalise on the open setting to have heart-to-heart conversations with your child. Discuss their outdoor experiences, emotions, and observations to nurture their emotional intelligence.

**Reflection:** Encourage your child to reflect on their outdoor experiences. Discuss what they’ve learned, how they managed their time, and how they adapted to unexpected situations.

**Nature as Teacher:** Encourage independent exploration. Let your child take the lead in certain outdoor activities, allowing them to practise decision-making and responsibility.

**Learning from Nature’s Resilience:** Share stories of how nature adapts to challenges. Draw parallels to your child’s own experiences, fostering resilience and a growth mindset.

By embracing outdoor learning, we create an environment that complements classroom learning while nurturing Self-Management skills that are indispensable for lifelong success. Your active involvement and the wonders of the natural world will together empower your child to blossom into a well-rounded individual.

Thank you for your unwavering support and please don’t forget: “Det finnes ikke dårlig vær, bare dårlig klær!” - “There is no bad weather, only bad clothing!”

Charlotte Balsom
Lower School Principal
“Grade 6 were excited to have survived their first week of Middle School! The start of the school year presented the group with a lot of changes and they are rising to the challenge of being more independent!”

Ms. Thomas
Grade 6 Homeroom Teacher
Dear Parents & Students,

As some of you may be aware, on Saturday 9th of September, there is an event called Donau Clean-Up.
Although this is not an ISU event, it is an excellent opportunity for us to take action for our local community as well as connect with people around us.
There is an option to register independently via their website.
We are also looking into building an ISU team for this event. If you are interested in joining our team, please fill out the form by Wednesday 6th of September simply to let us know how of us will attend. Ms Garcia will then register the team.

Details of where to meet and what to bring along will be shared after the registration has been completed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: this is an event that is NOT organised by ISU therefore parents will be responsible for their children. For students under 14 years old, we would ask you to make sure that they are supervised by either yourself or a designated adult of your choice. ISU members of staff will not be responsible for the supervision or the safety of the participants. Students over 14 can come by themselves if you give them permission.

Looking for used bike(s)

Dear parents and friends of the ISU Community,

Do you have a used bike available which you would like to sell? Our new, male, teacher(s) is/are in need of a bike and would be interested in buying one.
If you have one available which you would like to sell, we would be happy to hear from you. In this case please contact Claudia Bergert (HR/Relocation) at c.bergert@is-ulm.de.
Thank you very much for your help!