

September 16, 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

I am pleased to present some recent successes in our school and to invite you to make a generous tax-deductible donation.

Irvine International Academy exists to develop leadership skills and student character so that our children may secure their place in the global economy. We use multiple intelligences (Dr. Gardner of Harvard), high-level thinking (Dr. Bloom), and teach Mandarin. We have begun with an amazing attendance with 350 students. Most charter schools struggle to reach 100 their first year.

Aaron Scott (my son) and myself spent the first year gathering petition signatures from parents in front of Irvine schools. Board Chairman Doug Husen, an attorney and former private school superintendent, has spent hundreds of hours guiding this school. Principal Steven Chuang put in countless hours speaking for IIA. Eventually, connecting with the families of students representing all 28 elementary schools in Irvine joined IIA.

IIA stands on its own with several successes ensuring our future:

1. I applied for and obtained the Public Charter School Grant Program (PCSGP) for **\$600,000**. IIA was one of only 14 schools in California to receive it. PCSGP provides start-up costs for new schools over 3 years. Office/class equipment, books, and supplies are being purchased.
2. Parents, Nazeeha Bawaney and Merella Espinoza, helped me craft the Edison Initiative to fund our STEM/STEAM science program. This **\$140,000** from the Kay Family Foundation enabled us to hire Quang Vo, MD (parent and graduate of Stanford, Univ of Oklahoma Medical School, Cornell residency, Harvard, and Oxford, England) to supervise. Sarah Dagley is a full-time science coordinator supporting our Mandarin teachers in instruction and translation.
3. Because of a **\$50,000** grant from the Larry and Helen Hoag Foundation, our music program, with Orange County Music and Dance, purchased \$26,000 of instruments for our children so far. Our public school is the only one existing with a piano room and 9 electric full-size Yamaha keyboards. Kindergartners are beginning keyboarding!

However, IIA and Irvine USD are subject to the lowest funding in California due to high property values. Thank you to those who have already given a gift to our school. Our **Dragon Giving Wall** records the donations and grows with financial gifts, each represented by a scale. This is how we fund extra classroom teaching assistants, field trips, future library purchases, and technology. Suggestions and observations help, but financial gifts are essential in our early days. Our goal is for every family to join our Dragon Wall with \$1,000 per child enrolled. Of course, I want to lead by example. My family has donated over **\$50,000** (red scale).

Lastly, our school is a safe school. We are meeting Covid-19 guidelines because of a wonderful document created by 30+ of our parents. It is on our website <https://www.irvineia.org/covid->

[safety.aspx](#). Teacher, Parisa Geshti, with her second Masters in Public Health, has agreed to be the Covid Safety Officer. For two years she was the “Patient Access Representative” at St. Jude’s Emergency Room. There she worked with doctors, nurses, and patients to make sure proper care was provided. We continue to require masks in school, but allow masks to be off outside in accordance with the law. However, we respect parents’ wishes on their own children’s outside masking.

Thank you all for the individual and encouraging contributions you each have made to our school family!

Michael Scott, PhD
Superintendent