

NEWSLETTER



STEVEN D., AN ICCS 8TH GRADER, WAS CHOSEN OUT OF 500 ENTRIES TO HAVE HIS WRITING FEATURED IN THE JULY ADDITION OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS MAGAZINE.

FAVORITE PARTS OF THE MASS

By Steven D. | Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Augusta, 7th Grade

ICCS students must attend Mass. Mass is an important ceremony in the Catholic Church. During Mass, everyone is welcome. The priest, students, and teachers do the sign of the cross to show faith in Christ and the Holy Trinity. People can also confess their sins together and ask the Lord for forgiveness. The choir sings songs that praise Christ. Parts of the Bible are read, and the priest tells us how Christ wants us to live. My favorite parts of Mass are singing and music, praying, and confessing sins.

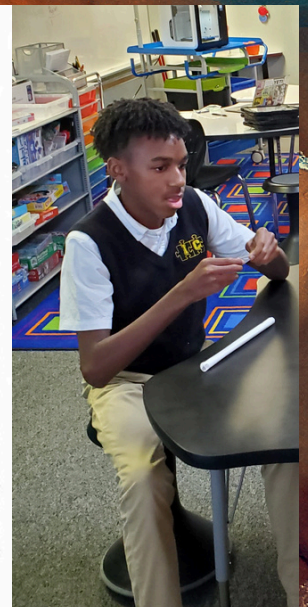
When I sing songs for Christ in the choir and listen to the organ's sounds, I believe Christ is present in the church and is pleased with what he hears. Christ blessed me to have friends at ICCS. I'm also blessed that Christ gave me teachers and a principal that loves me and helps me understand my schoolwork.

Praying during Mass helps me have faith that Christ listens to me and helps me forgive others. I believe that my

prayers will be answered. Sometimes it can be difficult to forgive those that hurt my feelings, but I still pray that Christ forgives them and changes their heart. Praying also helps me give thanks for what Christ does for me and the people in the world.

When I confess my sins to Christ, I am forgiven of the things that I should not have done such as being disrespectful to adults. Being disrespectful makes Christ disappointed. After I confess, I feel better about talking about things I did wrong. I believe Christ will forgive me and will help me not to disrespect adults again.

Mass at ICCS is peaceful and helps me understand Christ's word. It gives me faith that Christ will bless me. Mass allows me to pray for my needs and the needs of others. Although there are parts of Mass that I really like, I know that I should learn and join in all parts of Mass because this is how my faith in Christ will keep growing.



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We've got some fabulous news to share that's sure to add a splash of color and creativity to our school halls! Starting next week, our dress code policy will officially embrace the quirky and whimsical world of "crazy socks". Yes, you read that right! After much feedback from students and a lot of discussion, we're thrilled to announce that students can now express their individuality with wild, colorful, and unique socks. Whether it's polka dots, stripes, neon colors, or even socks with fun patterns like pizza slices or unicorns, the sky's the limit!



- First Parent Coffee Chat of the Year: Monday, August 5 at 9:00AM in the school cafeteria.
- Classroom Parent Orientations: Friday, August 9 at 10:00 AM followed by pizza lunch (\$5.00 each).
- Holy Day of Obligation and School Mass: August 15, 2024. This is a Thursday. We will NOT have school Mass on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Students will wear their Mass uniforms on Thursday.
- All students must be in full ICCS uniforms by August 30. If you have not ordered your uniform parts do so immediately.
- School closed and student holiday: September 2-6.
- Student House Reveal Day: Friday, September 20 starting at 11:00.



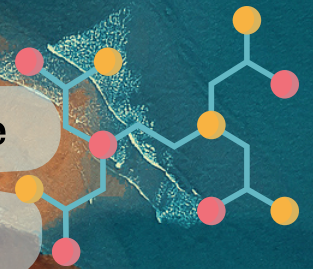
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We're thrilled to announce an array of exciting afterschool programs kicking off this September! Whether your child is an aspiring artist, a budding scientist, a future musician, or a passionate gamer, we've got something for everyone:

Art: Unleash your child's creativity with engaging art classes that explore various mediums and techniques.



STEM: Dive into hands-on experiments and projects that make science, technology, engineering, and math both fun and educational.



Music: Discover the joy of music with lessons and activities that cater to different interests and skill levels.



E-sports: Join the competitive and collaborative world of gaming with our e-sports program, where teamwork and strategy shine.



Stay tuned for more details on dates and pricing. We can't wait to offer these enriching opportunities and help your child explore their passions!

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Understanding the Feast of the Assumption of Mary

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary, celebrated on August 15th, is a significant feast day in the Catholic Church. It honors the belief that the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken up into Heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly life.

Here's a deeper look into this important feast:

Theological Significance: The Assumption is rooted in the belief that Mary, being sinless and chosen to be the Mother of God, was granted the privilege of being assumed into Heaven. This event is seen as a sign of the future resurrection and the ultimate triumph over sin and death.

Historical Context: The feast has been celebrated in various forms since the early centuries of Christianity. It was officially defined as a dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. The proclamation of the dogma affirmed the belief that Mary was assumed into Heaven at the end of her earthly life, although the exact details of this event are not described in Scripture.

Celebration and Tradition: The Feast of the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics, meaning that the faithful are required to attend Mass. The day is marked by special liturgies, prayers, and processions. It is also a time for reflecting on Mary's role in salvation history and her continued presence as a spiritual mother for all Christians. This feast not only celebrates Mary's elevation to Heaven but also serves as a reminder of the hope and promise of eternal life for all believers. It highlights the dignity and grace that God has bestowed upon Mary and, by extension, offers inspiration for the faithful as they strive to live a life of holiness.



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Get Ready to Join a New House: Introducing the Ron Clark House System: Fostering Community and Growth.

We are excited to introduce the Ron Clark House System to our school community! This innovative approach, inspired by legendary educator Ron Clark, is designed to foster a sense of belonging, encourage positive behavior, and build strong peer relationships.

Here's how it works:

- **House Assignments:** Every student will spin the wheel of fortune and be assigned to one of our four Houses. Each House represents a unique set of values and characteristics, and students will engage in various House activities and challenges throughout the year.

- **Community Building:** The House System promotes collaboration and camaraderie among students and parents. By participating in House events and working together on projects, students and parents will strengthen their social bonds and develop leadership skills.

- **Positive Reinforcement:** Houses will earn points for demonstrating core values such as respect, teamwork, and perseverance. This system encourages students to embody these values and contributes to a positive and supportive school environment.

We believe the Ron Clark House System will enhance our school culture and provide students with meaningful opportunities for growth and connection. We look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our community. Get ready for the big reveal! SAVE the date and be at ICCS on Friday, September 20, 2024 for a cookout and the BIG REVEAL starting at 11:00am. It will be a day you won't want to miss.

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As we embark on a new school year, it's important to acknowledge that the transition can be challenging for many students. With new teachers, routines, and more demanding coursework, the beginning of the year often brings a mix of excitement and anxiety. While many students will see familiar faces among their classmates, others are facing the added challenge of adjusting to a new school environment, including learning the ICCS expectations and way. Here are some tips to help your child adjust to this transition smoothly:

- 1. Practice Patience:** Understand that adjusting to a new school year takes time. Your child may need a few weeks to acclimate to new routines and expectations. Be patient as they navigate these changes.
- 2. Show Empathy:** Acknowledge your child's feelings and experiences. Listen to their concerns and validate their emotions, whether they are excited, nervous, or overwhelmed. Your support will help them feel understood and less isolated.
- 3. Foster Positivity:** Encourage a positive outlook on the new year. Highlight the opportunities for growth, new friendships, and exciting challenges. A positive attitude can greatly influence your child's perspective and overall experience.

By showing patience, empathy, and positivity, you can help your child build confidence and ease into the school year with greater ease. Remember, each adjustment is a step toward growth, and your support plays a crucial role in making this transition smoother.