



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TUCSON
1701 EAST SENECA ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85719
520.406.0552
WWW.ISTUCSON.ORG

September 17, 2021

Dear Members of the IST Community,

The first day of fall is almost officially here, and it is so wonderful to see the school year off to a great start. Exciting educational initiatives are happening in the classrooms, clubs are in full swing, the student government is in place, and the new build is making steady progress.

The [IST Board](#) wanted to share a quick update on its activities as we settle into the new academic year:

IST Board Transitions and Additions

- After almost nine years as the Board Chair, **Kathie Barnes** recently transitioned out of the Board Chair role. She remains on the Board as a voting member. Almost immediately after the school's formation, Kathie took an active role in the IST community and joined the Board in 2012. It is safe to say that Kathie's dedication to the IST Board and to our community at large has been unparalleled. We cannot thank Kathie enough for her commitment and service to advancing the strategic priorities of the school over her years as Board Chair. Kathie's family recently made an exciting move to New York City, so we are very grateful for her continued participation on the Board and even more grateful for her willingness to join us for very late Zoom meetings from the East Coast! Thanks again, Kathie, for your dedication to IST.
- Kathie has passed the baton to **Jen Pickard** who is our newly appointed Board Chair. Jen has served on the Board since January 2020 and supported the international Head of School search last academic year. Jen is excited to bring her higher education lens and experience to the IST context.
- The IST Board is excited to welcome its newest member and treasurer, **Brandy Maben**. Brandy is a Registered Investment Advisor with Levin Funding Group, which provides comprehensive and holistic financial planning and investment services to clients throughout Arizona and across the country. Brandy and her husband, Phil, have two children, Miles and Collins, in the preschool and kindergarten Chinese program. Brandy has served on the IST International Day committee for the past three years.

Strategic Priorities for 2021-2022 Academic Year

- As we move further into the academic year, the IST Board will continue to address the following immediate and strategic priorities:
Continued safe and vigilant navigation of the pandemic, utilizing the COVID SWAT team's research-informed advice to regularly review and enact best practices to protect our community.
- Given IST's continued enrollment growth and community interest, provide oversight of the new STEAM Center build and entertain other possibilities for ongoing expansion as required.
- Support the creation of a development staff position and associated goals to further the growth, partnerships and engagement of the IST community, alumni, and the greater Tucson community.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support of IST. As always, the IST Board welcomes your thoughts and feedback as we work to support Mrs. Palma and the entire IST staff to "open the world" to our fantastic children.

Be safe and be well,

Jen Pickard, Board Chair

Kathie Barnes

Melissa Barnett

Sarah Burger, Secretary

Colleen Nichols, Jefferson Park Community Representative

Brandy Maben, Treasurer