

## **IDS-CC Students Commemorate 9/11 Anniversary With Acts of Service**



*IDS-CC middle school students posed for this special photo as part of their observance of 9/11. The image will be used to create notecards that the students will use to send messages of appreciation and gratitude to troops, veterans, and firefighters throughout the year.*

**Sept. 22, 2011 (TAMPA, Fla.)** – As students filtered out of their classrooms, the laughter middle schoolers typically share in the hallways was noticeably absent.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus headed outside toward the flag pole where they gathered around it in a large circle. They watched respectfully as eighth graders Adam Lewis and Terese Okulski lowered the flag to half-staff. And then they waited silently until the schoolwide announcement came over the loudspeaker at exactly 9:11 a.m. asking the entire IDS-CC community to stand.

Eighth grader Lumiere Rostick played Taps on her trumpet, which was broadcast throughout the campus and followed by 60 seconds of silence. Adam and Terese then raised the flag back to the peak.

The annual tribute has become an IDS-CC tradition to honor the memory of those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001 and the heroes who worked valiantly to save lives. This year to mark the 10th anniversary, which had occurred the day before, students performed acts of service.

For example, following the schoolwide observance, middle schoolers gathered on the athletic field and posed for a special photo by forming the letters "U.S.A." They plan to create notecards using the photo to send messages of appreciation and gratitude to troops, veterans, and firefighters throughout the coming year.

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Upper Primary students began the day by reading "The Fireboat," a story about a retired fireboat that helped put out fires from the 9/11 disaster. "We discussed how we appreciate the people in our community who help us on a daily basis, said Upper Primary Division Leader Debi Brockmeyer. "Then, just as that little boat stepped up, so did our Upper Primary students to help the IDS lunch program. Each student became part of an assembly line to help the workers in the kitchen with bag lunches."

According to Intermediate Division Leader Michelle Hill, students in the third and fourth grade multi-age class lent a hand in kindergarten by reading stories to the little ones. The third-grade class straightened shelves in the library, helped younger students check out books, and read to them, as well. The fourth-grade class brainstormed words of gratitude for members of the U.S. military that will be delivered to soldiers rehabilitating at the local Veteran's Administration hospital. Fifth graders focused on giving to the IDS community by thoroughly cleaning their classroom to save the facilities team time and work.



*To mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11, IDS-CC students performed acts of service. Fifth grade students (left) gave assistance to the IDS facilities team by cleaning their classroom. Students from the third and fourth grade multi-age class read books to kindergarteners (right).*

"The decisions each class made about what service to do showed them that it really is easy to help others," said Mrs. Hill. "Thinking about ways they could contribute allowed them to practice the International Baccalaureate learner profile of caring. It also allowed them to be reflective about ways to give and to imagine what others might like to receive."

Even the school's youngest prekindergarteners and kindergarteners learned about working together and giving to others by creating patriotic banners that were then displayed outside their classrooms for all to enjoy.

"These murals were our way of adding something to our school community that showed hope and kindness and patriotism," said Early Primary Division Leader Jessica Moore. "They remind us of how lucky we are to live in such an amazing country."

*Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, nonsectarian private school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County with over 500 students from PreK3 through 8th grade. At IDS, all children experience the International Baccalaureate Programme in a highly academic and nurturing environment focused on excellence and excitement in learning. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 7,000 visitors observing and learning from IDS-CC teachers. For more information, visit [www.idsy.com](http://www.idsy.com) or contact the Admissions Office at 813-961-3087 for a personal tour.*