

# NEWS RELEASE



## Setting a Mindset for Success

*On the first day of school, students at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus embraced academic goals, and teachers focused lessons on the values of dignity, respect, teamwork, and appreciation.*



*First and second-grade "Cool Cats" (left) reflected on the importance of appreciating the uniqueness of every classmate. They read a book about friendship called "Cat and Fish," and each received his or her own fish as a reminder of the first-day lesson. Fifth graders (right) also discussed the value of the individual and participated in team-building activities to help create community.*

**Sept. 8, 2011 (TAMPA, Fla.)** – It was the first day of school at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus. In Debi Brockmeyer and Kim Fowler's multi-age class, the first and second graders who call themselves the "Cool Cats" crossed their arms on their tables and put their heads down. They squeezed their eyes shut and - as patiently as any six or seven-year old could - waited for their surprise.

When their teachers said it was okay, they looked up. There in front of each student was a small glass bowl with a shimmery fish circling through the clear water.

Joy, wonder, and amazement spread across their faces.

Earlier in the day, the students had read a book about an extraordinary friendship called "Cat and Fish." Inside each fish bowl was a goggle-eyed reminder of the importance of appreciating the uniqueness of every classmate.

The first day of school at IDS-CC was filled with both tradition and innovation, as teachers welcomed students with creative experiences that enabled learners to set powerful goals and embrace important values for the new academic year.

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders started the day by gathering in the middle school gym for a welcome-back event with a "timely" focus. Minute-long games of challenge emphasized the theme of "Make Every Minute Count! Because Every Minute Matters!"

"We wanted the students to understand that successfully reaching their goals is all about the choices they make and how they use their time," said Middle School Division Leader Betty George.

*Please turn over for the rest of the article.*

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Fifth graders focused on building community and reflected on the value of the individual. They participated in a variety of outdoor team-building challenges that required the effort and skills of every classmate to achieve success.

Vickii Ausburn and Andria Petty's first and second-grade students discussed the importance of focusing on goals to accomplish a mission. Each student wrote out his or her most important academic goal for the school year – learning about the planets, reading chapter books, or mastering math facts. They tucked these "missions" into the cardboard tubes of model rockets, counted down, and watched the rockets shoot into the blue August sky.



*The "Mighty Monkeys" (left) wrote out their academic goals for the year and placed them inside model rockets that were launched into the sky. Middle school students (right) participated in minute-long games of challenge to emphasize the importance of making every minute matter .*

"Our students plan to 'reach for the stars' – to soar higher academically than ever before," said Mrs. Petty.

Other primary classes continued the tradition of whispering one's hopes and dreams for the new year to a butterfly before setting it free - a powerful reminder for multi-age "Brilliant Bugs" of academic goals.

According to IDS-CC Headmaster Dr. Joyce Burick Swarzman, everything teachers do has a purpose that is based on the most current, brain-based research about how students learn best.

Planting flowers, for example, helped three-year old pre-kindergarteners understand that they will grow and change throughout the year ahead. Carefully placing penny after penny on a small foil boat became a lesson for third graders in how to persist to achieve success. And having the opportunity to sit in a sporty Audi convertible brought to campus by IDS alumnus Chris Rogers told fourth graders that they will be "traveling" to new places academically all year.

"IDS-CC teachers understand that for children to become successful lifelong learners, it is important to bring joy and excitement into the classroom," said Dr. Swarzman. "And what better day to establish a mindset for growth and the desire to succeed than the very first day of school."

*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.idsvyes.com](http://www.idsvyes.com) or contact the Admissions Office at 813-961-3087 for a personal tour.*