

IDS

Embracing the best in education today

“Teachers from Independent Day School have been in staff development workshops as eager learners. They create the abilities and the environments for champion teaching and quality learning for their students.”

-Steve Barkley, Speaker & Curriculum Expert, Performance Learning Systems



IDS has gained recognition as a school that features the best practices in education. Best practices are innovative, tried and tested strategies that have gained credibility in the field of education. IDS is committed to giving children the most effective teaching methods available for Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th grade students.

- **IDS is dedicated to children first** and seeks to nurture intellectual curiosity, emotional well-being and strength of character in each child.
- **The faculty consists of highly skilled teachers** who consistently study to bring the best practices of education to life in the classroom.
- **Teachers use interactive teaching techniques** such as cooperative learning, multiple intelligences and integrated curriculum to promote involvement in all aspects of student life.
- Emphasizing hands-on learning, **IDS encourages students to take an active role in their education** and creates opportunities to make significant connections between school work and “real life”.
- **Both new and experienced outside educators have attended training workshops and observed** the application and integration of multiple research-based teaching models in IDS classrooms.
- **State-of-the art technology is an integral part of learning** from Pre-K through 8th grade.
- The accomplished **sports and diverse performing arts programs are designed to tap into students’ multiple intelligences.**

Dedicated to educational excellence, IDS has taken a leadership role in addressing the need for progressive teacher training by extending its exemplary staff development program to interested outside educators. IDS has a reputation as a model school; over 700 Florida educators in the past three years have observed in the classrooms and/or attended trainings.

Educator

Comments...



Middle school students proudly communicate a love of learning

Below are sample responses from over 700 teacher workshop participants and/or visitors who observed IDS classrooms in action.

"Your staff demonstrates the zeal for teaching that we all strive to demonstrate! Learning is contagious at IDS! "

"All of the classrooms were pleasant and active. I couldn't believe how "on task" the children were. I also can't believe how professional the teachers were."

"As an administrator I was really impressed with your professional enthusiasm and love of teaching."

"What I witnessed here has renewed my vigor, and I am anxious once again to motivate my teachers to do what's best for children."

"Opening up your doors to fellow educators is more of what we need!"

"Wow, what an amazing day! It makes all the difference to see the structures in use. Allowing us to view your teaching taught more than any manual ever could."

"You are all such wonderful teachers, motivators, and preservers of the lives of all the students and visitors you encounter."

"Actually seeing the concepts in action is the best way to grasp the Kagan Cooperative Learning structures. The teachers here are inspirational!"

"I have been teaching since 1969 and probably learned more about management and teaching today than at any other workshop."

" It says a lot when teachers are so willing to share."



IDS Teacher

Comments...

"I love teaching at IDS because I'm able to be innovative, creative and on top of cutting-edge breakthroughs in learning for my students and others."

-Linda Wenzel, Director of Studies,
Intermediate/Primary Division



Visiting educators observe
IDS teachers in action

"As a teacher at IDS I have the opportunity to continue to be a life-long learner and to model that for others."

-Betty George, Director of Studies, Middle School

Resident Teacher

Comments...

- ♦ "Holding a position as a Resident Teacher at Independent Day School was an incredible opportunity. More than just an observer, I became an integral part of the Early Childhood team. I learned about the intricate parts that come together to make a lesson so meaningful. I teamed with all of the teachers on the team- eventually being able to finish their sentences. Working side-by-side with such knowledgeable, nurturing teachers who continually strive for excellence is something that I will always value. I will continue to be grateful for this opportunity and the confidence it has given me to become the teacher I want to be."

-Jessica Schew, Resident Teacher, Primary Division

- ♦ "The residence program at IDS is such an innovative idea. It allowed me to prepare myself for teaching in a manner unlike any other. I was able to spend an entire year teaching students, practicing what I had learned, and at the same time being able to observe some of the best teachers around. What an amazing opportunity! Thank you IDS!"

-Amy Lewis, Resident Teacher, Intermediate Division

- ♦ "Upon meeting the people who make up the IDS community, I became convinced that I had stumbled upon something extraordinary. IDS was not just doing something more, and it was not just doing something different, it was doing something more different than I had ever observed anywhere else. I believe that IDS is at a turning point right now... I look forward to witnessing the spread of what you do to other schools. I look forward to watching children all over the country benefit from your efforts."

-Rachel Fisher, Resident Teacher Middle school

Our Mission is to create...

A place where academic success is measured for all children through:

- *everyday classroom tasks*
- *authentic learning experiences*
- *national test scores*

A place where social and emotional success is measured for all children through:

- *successful interactions with peers*
- *self-concept and high self-esteem*
- *respect for authority*
- *active participation in school learning*
- *active participation in school activities & events*
- *respect for every individual's emotional and physical safety*

A place where all learning is designed to combine the societal needs for:

- *achieving academic excellence*
- *mastering test-taking skills*
- *making the connection between school work & real life*

A place where all children experience learning in a caring, child-centered and highly academic environment.

A place where all children excel in both learning and their love of learning.

The Independent Day School Philosophy

“IDS was founded on and remains devoted to the ideal that a happy child...one who is given respect as a unique human being and allowed to fulfill his/her needs to play, to investigate, and to be him/herself...is more open to learning than a child who is unhappy, tense, and fearful. We consider it our responsibility to foster each child's capacity for learning, to help him/her grow morally, spiritually, and emotionally, as well as physically and intellectually. Recognizing the many differences in learning rates and styles, we believe in individualizing each child's school experience to whatever extent is possible for the fullest development of his/her potential. It is our belief that school should be interesting and even exciting; that each child's work and behavior should be evaluated in terms of his/her own inherent capacity rather than through comparison with others; and that cooperation is more valuable than competition. Our goal is to provide a relaxed but stimulating atmosphere wherein each child feels acceptance and encouragement in the achievement of success through the exercise of responsible choice.”

-Founders: Marilyn Gatlin and Betty Anderson, 1968



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