

Learning In Style School

December 2024 Board Update

LIS Student Data (September 1 - November 30, 2024)

- 134 student "participants" (at least 12 hours), a 33% YTY increase.
- YTY increases in monthly contact hours every month, September – November. In fact, we're currently at 75% of last year's total contact hours - with 4.5 recording months to go. (Reminder: MDE tracks annual *contact hours* from May 1 to April 30.)
- 19.3% of students so far have achieved a level gain on standardized assessments (vs. 3.4% at this time in 2023). The goal set by the state is 36% by June 30. (Reminder: MDE tracks annual *testing data* from July 1 to June 30.)
- We're seeing some interesting demographic shifts in our student population. Spanish is now the first language of the largest percentage of students (32%), followed by Somali (28%) and French (10%). Last year at this time: Somali 54%, Spanish 14%, French 7%.

Open House Recap

On November 20, we hosted an open house and 30th anniversary celebration for an estimated 50 – 60 guests. We offered tours of the school and a brief program.

LIS founder, Sr. Agnes Foley, CSJ, was a featured speaker. Ag received much-deserved recognition for her many years of leadership and provided essential context around the school's origin and design. ("The immigrants found *us*." And "We deliberately wanted class sizes that could fit around a table.")

And the heart of the program: three current LIS students offered remarks, providing brief bios, their perspectives on the school, and their goals around their English skills. (Teachers especially encouraged student attendance for the day and students responded: we had the highest daily attendance of the year so far.)

The event also served as a reunion for teachers, staff and volunteers from throughout the history of the school.

The open house also offered an opportunity to celebrate our existing community partners and for them to connect with each other. And we invited organizations with which we'd like to establish new relationships, ones that can either refer new students to LIS or that have resources and services we'd like our students to access. We've already had several follow-up meetings with more ahead.

Security

Over the past several years, there have been several security incidents on LIS grounds,

including the recent robbery of a student at gunpoint. Long-time safety concerns are now being addressed as we work with the Province on a unified security system. In the meantime, we are pursuing the option of a school security guard and/or buzzer system for entry until a comprehensive approach is in place.