

## Learning In Style School August 2024 Board Update

Preparations are well under way for our 8680<sub>80</sub> school year;

LIS Staffing Update. Besides our returning cohort of English teachers, we have added the following new staff for September:

- 3 part-time English teachers (beginner, intermediate,\* and advanced intermediate\* levels)
- A citizenship instructor (volunteer)
- A case worker\*
- A childcare coordinator
- A computer lab and digital literacy coordinator\*
- An office manager\*
- And an LIS teacher will begin teaching a class at Sarah's every Friday morning\*

\*new for 24-25

HR Director Kim Wagner has been instrumental in helping LIS recruit, screen, assess, and onboard these many new additions to our staff.

LIS Professional Development. New and returning staff are completing their state requirements for those working in Adult Basic Education (ABE) before the school year begins. A week of in-service training sessions in late August will include "Learning In Style 101" (policies and procedures), time with Kim Wagner and Matt Halley, a presentation from the International Institute on the current and projected state of immigration in our community, a training on "Cultural Perspectives" for educators, a review of our school curriculum and national standards for adult ELL instruction (ELP and CCRS), and training on the CASAS assessments and the SiD state reporting database.\*\*

LIS Students. LIS held summer school sessions in June and August this year. As anticipated, this smaller program has had solid and enthusiastic attendance for both sessions, and has allowed those students able to attend to maintain their English studies. Besides providing ongoing English classes, opening the school for an August summer school has allowed for fall registration to get rolling earlier this year. Our student body originates from around the world and we're especially reminded of this during registration.

LIS Building Update. John Viktora-Croke, TJ Shulson, Trevor May and many outside contractors have been (or are scheduled to be) providing significant attention to 2200 Nicollet Avenue South this summer. They are replacing the ~~pothole obstacle course~~ parking lot, retrofitting hallway lighting, assisting with a building-wide cleanout, updating over half of our computer lab devices, and just generally addressing needed maintenance throughout. We look forward to welcoming fall students and staff to their newly refreshed school in a few weeks.

LIS's 30-year anniversary. LIS first opened its doors in 1994 at St. Stephen's Parish in south Minneapolis. LIS founding director Sister Agnes Foley, CSJ, visited LIS in early August for the first

time in many years. Ag has been a wonderful resource, providing useful historical perspective, records, insights around the original founding of the school, and thoughtful advice gleaned from her many (22) years of leadership. “We weren’t here to teach English so much as we were here to meet the needs of the students,” said Ag.

\*\*Education and acronyms (!)

ELL: English Language Learners

ELP: English Language Proficiency standards

CCRS: College and Career Readiness Standards

CASAS: Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (our student assessments)

SiD: Student Information Database – Minnesota's reporting system for Adult Basic Education (ABE)