



Grizzly Gazette

School Newsletter

January 11, 2026

**Connecting IB-Me and IB-You
Through Kindness and Belonging**

Dear GIS Community,

Welcome to our January Site Newsletter as we begin the second half of the school year. We invite you to start by reading **Principal Michael Maita's message**, where he shares reflections and updates as we move into the months ahead.

This issue includes several important updates and reminders, including **re-enrollment for the 2026–27 school year**, open enrollment for new students, and **IB high school application deadlines**. You'll also find updates on **campus construction**, highlights from our **SSC and DELAC leaders**, opportunities to share your voice through surveys and advisory councils, and ways to get involved through volunteering and upcoming events. January is a month rooted in connection and celebration. As we honor **Slavic Heritage Month**, participate in the **Great Kindness Challenge**, and gather for **GIS Cultural Night on January 29**, we are reminded that community is built through everyday acts of care and inclusion.

This month's Launch brings our shared focus on kindness to the forefront—connecting IB-me and IB-you as we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and continue building a culture of belonging. Thank you for being an active and valued part of our GIS community.



We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful winter break; it was a pleasure welcoming the many smiling faces back to campus. In the coming weeks, our staff will focus on re-establishing routines, strengthening academic habits, and engaging students in purposeful inquiry.

We are excited to announce a new community event coming up this month: Cultural Night, an opportunity to celebrate the many cultures represented at GIS. We encourage students and families to wear traditional dress on the day of the event to help honor and highlight our diverse community. Families are invited to participate by volunteering to host a booth and share information about their culture, perform a traditional dance or song, or provide food samples from a local restaurant. The event will take place on January 29 from 4:30-6:00pm. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Sam Olson at sam.olson@gcccharters.org.

Our campus construction project continues to make strong progress, and we are excited to open our new field shortly. Judging by student enthusiasm, we expect the new field will quickly become a favorite place on campus. The foundation for our new TK building has been completed, and the building will be assembled in the coming weeks. We look forward to sharing additional updates as we reach the final stages of these projects.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we begin the second half of the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we will continue building a school community where every student can learn, grow, and thrive.

Michael Maita

Principal | Gateway International School

In this issue:

RE-ENROLLMENT for the 2026-27 School Year. ACTION REQUIRED.

Re-enrollment for the **2026–27 school year** is now open and will run from **December 19, 2025 through January 30, 2026**.

All current Gateway International School families who wish to return must complete the re-enrollment process **online through the Aeries Parent Portal**. This online process is required because it includes **important information beyond the Intent to Return form**, such as updated student and family details.

📋 What must be completed in Aeries:

- **Intent to Return form**
- **Required insurance information** (new requirement)

Review and update of student and parent/guardian information

Please note that while a hard copy form exists, hard copies should only be used in emergency situations. To ensure accuracy and timely processing, families are expected to complete **all re-enrollment steps digitally in Aeries**.

📋 Important Reminder:

If the Intent to Return form is **not submitted in Aeries by January 30, 2026**, the student's spot at Gateway International School for the 2026–27 school year will be forfeited.

If you need assistance accessing the Aeries Parent Portal or completing the forms online, please contact the school office—we are happy to help.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us ensure a smooth re-enrollment process for all families.
Mrs. Yuliia | GIS Registrar

OPEN ENROLLMENT for the 2026-27 School Year



The Open Enrollment for the next 2026-2027 school year is now open **for all NEW students** until March 6th, 2026.

All new families and students interested in applying for 2026-27 must submit an online application before the end of Open Enrollment **HERE**.

- If there are more applicants than available space, admission will be decided by a random public drawing to be held on March 20, 2026.
- Preference is given to applicants according to specifications in the NEW charter document.

Waitlist from the current year (2025-26) does not carry over to the following year (2026-27). Students on the current waitlist must reapply during the open enrollment period if they want to be considered for the following year.

SLAVIC HERITAGE MONTH: A Tradition of Kindness



January also marks Slavic Heritage Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures and traditions of our Slavic families and community members. One of the most cherished Slavic values is *gostepriimstvo*—hospitality expressed through kindness, generosity, and care for others. We are proud to have many Slavic students and families in our school, and we encourage our students to model this tradition by serving as ambassadors in their classrooms. This may include warmly welcoming visitors, greeting classmates each day, and helping new students feel at home.

Through these meaningful actions, we strengthen the connection between *IB-me* and *IB-you* and continue building a school community grounded in respect and belonging.

Spotlight on the 2025–2026 SSC/DELAC Committee Members

This month, we're thrilled to shine a spotlight on Mr. Reilly and Mrs. McClintock, valued members of our 2025–2026 School Site Council (SSC) and District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) team. With their patience, passion, positivity, and unwavering professionalism, they play a key role in supporting student success and strengthening our GIS community. We're excited to share their reflections on what makes GIS such a meaningful and inspiring place for students to learn, grow, and thrive.



MR. DANIEL REILLY, SSC MEMBER

What sets our school apart from other public and charter schools?

I believe the thing that sets us apart from other schools is our sense of community. This year my students have been referring to our class as a "Class Family." Their words, not mine. I know that they feel safe and secure within my room. I suspect it's the same in others.

What inspires or motivates you to serve on the School Committee?

The thing that inspires me to serve on the School Committee is a need for parents to be able to speak to teachers and staff members in a forum where the "pieces" responsible for educating our students are all in the same room. Without all of these pieces, we would not be able to directly answer parents' questions. I do believe that we should have students serving as well. They are the most important part of what we do.



MRS. ELIANE MCCLINTOCK, DELAC MEMBER

What sets our school apart from other public and charter schools?

Our school is distinguished by its implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) framework and a deeply embedded commitment to continuous growth. As an IB school, we emphasize inquiry-based instruction, global awareness, and the development of the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally. This approach cultivates critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and a strong sense of civic and global responsibility. Additionally, our school maintains a culture of reflection and improvement, using data-informed practices, collaboration, and ongoing professional learning to ensure high-quality instruction and equitable outcomes for all students.

What inspires or motivates you to serve on the School Committee?

I am motivated to serve on the School Committee because of my strong belief in our school's mission and its commitment to continuous improvement. As an International Baccalaureate school, we hold ourselves to high standards through ongoing reflection, evaluation, and growth. I am inspired by the opportunity to support this work at a systems level, contribute to thoughtful and collaborative decision-making, and help ensure that our policies and practices align with our core values of equity, rigor, and global mindedness. Serving on the School Committee allows me to advocate for students, support educators, and help guide the school's continued growth in service of our community.

We invite you to attend our next SSC / DELAC meeting this Monday



Date: January 12



Time: 3:30–4:30 PM



Location: Inquiry Center

This meeting is an opportunity to learn about school programs, share your input, and collaborate in supporting our students' success. Your voice and participation are important to us. We hope you can join us!

Your Voice Matters: Join Our 2nd Community School Advisory Council Meeting!



Join us for our next Community Schools Advisory Council meeting on **January 13 from 3:30–4:30 PM in the Inquiry Center.**

Parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to review school data, celebrate progress, and help shape Community School priorities that support students and families—both academically and beyond.

We'll share updates on current programs and resources and invite your ideas for workshops, supports, and services our community needs. Your voice and perspective are essential, and we hope you'll join the conversation!

Warmly,

Rita Ozeruga | Community Engagement Specialist

CKH Mid-Year Survey

We value your feedback! Please take a few minutes to complete the CKH Mid-Year Survey to help us reflect on our progress and plan for the rest of the year. Thank you for sharing your voice.

📄 Complete the survey **HERE** - <https://iheartckh.com/auth>

IB High School Registration Deadlines

SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rio Americano High School and other SJUSD High Schools open enrollment lottery for district residents only - application is due Friday, January 23, 2026 at 5pm.

Enrollment link: <https://www.sanjuan.edu/enrollment/open-enrollment>

This link is only for SJUSD residents.

NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Inderkum High School IB Scholars Program application for residents is due January 31, 2026.

- Must contact Inderkum IB coordinator for application process
- Family preview day is January 13, 2026 at 6:30pm in the IHS Theater

Inderkum High School IB Scholars Program application for nonresidents opens January 15th

- Family preview day is January 13, 2026 at 6:30pm in the IHS Theater

ROSEVILLE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Roseville Joint Unified School District Interdistrict transfer program window for nonresidents opens January 12, 2026 - April 30, 2026.

- For the IB program please contact the IB coordinator for the school you are interested in attending
- **Contacts:**
- Granite Bay HS – Bernadette Cranmer: Bcranmer@rjuhsd.us
- Oakmont HS – Kim Carroll: kcarroll@rjuhsd.us

Contact Student Services at (916)786-2051 or transfers@rjuhsd.us for any assistance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January:** Slavic Heritage Month
- **January 19th, Monday:** NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- **January 21st - 28th:** Great Kindness Challenge
- **January 26th-30th:** National School Choice Week
- **January 29th, Thursday** - GIS Cultural Night
- **January 30th** - Re-enrollment Forms Due

LAUNCH

This month, our community comes together around a shared focus on kindness. As we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, participate in the Great Kindness Challenge, and gather for Cultural Night, we are reminded that small, intentional acts can make a meaningful difference. In a diverse community like ours, kindness connects *IB-me and IB-you*—turning individual actions into a shared culture of care and belonging.



**“IN A WORLD
WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING,
BE KIND.”**

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. You can reach out via the following links:

- 916-286-1985
- gis@gcccharters.org
- www.gischarter.org