

**Island Village Schools Accomplishments
2008-2010 and Future Plans for 2010/2011**

Accomplishments of student achievement:

We kept our commitment to the arts alive through severe budget restraints. Our school is becoming known as a school of the arts in the Venice area. We have programs in visual and performing arts, drama, choir, and music. IVMS organizes two major performances for the students during our winter performances and Arts Day, which has turned into Arts Week over the last few years. Not only do the students perform and display their artwork, but the students meet guest artists and musicians. It has become a wonderful tradition to celebrate the school year. Students have multiple performance opportunities as well throughout the year.

We increased the availability of foreign language opportunities through the Rosetta Stone Language program. Our technology program continues to expand as we develop ways to incorporate software programs based on constructivist philosophy. In this way, we are staying true to our foundation for child-centered, individualized learning, as well as helping students to become adept in programming, digital arts, using research tools, and wise use of the Internet.

Students learn to organize their time through the use of daily and weekly work plans for younger students and 3-week academic contracts for older students. As a Montessori school, we continue to emphasize choice and personal responsibility. Our middle school students earn recognition as self-directed learners. IVMS believes that these attributes are as closely tied to students' future successes as are academic gains.

We refined our reputation in both the charter and Montessori communities as a strong public program. The school has completed an online teacher training program for Montessori educators. Our courses have been approved as a concentration in Argosy University's graduate education program. We are applying for accreditation to MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education) as one of the first distance education programs in the global Montessori community. Argosy has plans to develop our Montessori training program into a full master's of education degree. We have received two separate grants for the development of this project from the State of Florida. IVMS students as well as students in other public Montessori programs will benefit from our efforts.

The Montessori curriculum and philosophy remain cornerstones of our programs. We are finding new ways to combine the strengths of both the Montessori and traditional methods for the benefit of our students. We have worked hard to develop a good, working relationship with the School District's administrative staff and board members. Continuous improvement to this relationship has always been and will continue to be a priority.

Accomplishments related to standardized testing:

In 2008-2009, we saw great improvements in our writing scores with an increase of over 30% in 4th grade scores. 100% of our 8th grade students scored at or above grade level in writing. Most students improved in math as well. The school also improved in science and reading remains a strength of our program. Our middle school earned an A last year. Our elementary program gained enough points for an "A" rating but received a "B" due to one sub-group in math missing the 50%ile by 3%ile points. Both programs earned 100% of Adequate Yearly Progress as measured by No Child Left Behind. We have renewed our focus on those areas where students did not show as much progress by providing extra tutoring during the school day. While we do not suggest judging our school simply by these measures, the FCAT and AYP standards are important. At Island Village, we seek to balance the need to show accountability toward grade level expectations and our commitment to a learner-centered Montessori approach. There are many areas of student progress not measured by test scores such as creativity, social maturity, leadership, and self-direction. We encourage you to keep in mind that FCAT scores show a portion of what a student has gained during a year at school. They are a piece of the picture rather than the whole.

The history of our school grades and AYP:

Elementary

Year	Grade*	AYP**	% OF AYP (Need 100% for YES)
2009	B	Yes	100%
2008	A	No	95%
2007	A	Yes	100%
2006	A	Yes	100%
2005	A	No	97%

Middle

Year	Grade*	AYP**	% OF AYP (Need 100% for YES)
2009	A	Yes	100%
2008	A	No	95%
2007	C	No	95%
2006	B	Yes	100%

*School Grade - State of Florida A+ Program

**Adequate Yearly Progress - Federal No Child Left Behind Act

Important ratios to consider:

For a smaller school, our students have many benefits, including a ratio of 1 computer to 1.25 students in grades 5 through 8, 1 computer to 2.5 students in grades 3 and 4, 1 computer to 4 students in grades 2 and 3, and 1 computer to 8 students in grades K and 1. Developing a safe, versatile state-of-the-art technology network has been a high priority. With a co-teaching model, IVMS has one of the lowest educator to student ratios in the school district (1 educator to 13 students at all levels). State constitutional requirements for class size: 1:18 in grades K-3 and 1:22 in grades 4-8.

School awards/special press/acknowledgments:

The school was noticed for our continued partnership with Venice Theater. The school executive director was appointed by Governor Crist to the State Charter School Review Panel. Family Magazine readers voted IVMS the number one charter school in Sarasota County. One classroom of 1st and 2nd grade IVMS students was acknowledged for raising almost \$6,000 for the Cancer Society. Our school community also raised close to \$10,000 to support expenses for a founding member of the IVMS staff battling cancer during the last few months of her life. Our partnership with Children First continues to be strong. The organization shares our preschool facility and has agreed to run the program as a Montessori center. This summer our school will host the Venice Symphony's music camp at the end of July. Annual audits continue to show «no findings», which means our school's management and financial structure is sound.

Building or remodeling projects:

Our Venice campus added 16,000 square feet of new buildings for our elementary and middle school programs. In addition, the campus buildings were connected by high speed fiber as well as alarm and phone systems. These improvements greatly increased our capacity to offer technology-based learning to our students. We also added shade awnings and picnic tables so students could be better protected from the sun during lunch and outdoor events. IVMS plans a 2,000 sq. ft. Arts Center that will provide space for a small theater to support our music, dance, and drama programs, a portable gallery for our visual arts program, as well as an open area for the after school and school lunch programs. The purchase of new playground equipment is in process as well as a recent replacement of air-conditioning units on our original school building. Detailed procedures have been developed that exceed minimum requirements for facilities maintenance and student safety.

Significant challenges:

Budget adjustments due to the recession were stressful last year. Over a two year period, the school lost almost 40 families due to the recession. Our school's enrollment increased dramatically in the middle of last summer. We are currently holding steady at 420 students in our Venice charter programs, 25 in our Venice early childhood program, and 40 (early childhood and elementary) students in our Sarasota campus. The increased student enrollment was of great benefit to our school. Enrollment goals for next year will bring the total charter enrollment for the Venice campus to 450 students, 35 early childhood students, and 40 students in our Sarasota campus. This size is necessary to support many programs at IVMS.

Other accomplishments:

The percentage of returning students was higher last year than ever, allowing us to more easily balance the flow of the Montessori philosophy with grade level requirements. We look forward to a continuation of this accomplishment in future years. Students returning to our program are a critical component for every level. In a Montessori learning environment, each year's experience builds on the previous. Learning environments in the upper grades depend on students who are responsible for their learning and can function in an environment that requires choice, independence, self-advocacy, and self-direction.

Future goals:

Island Village will combine its separate charters to become a single K-8 school. However, there will be no changes to programs. Island Village Middle serves students from 5th grade to 8th grade (5th-8th). Our goal is to accept only returning students into grades 7 and 8. The middle school will increase its size by one class next year for a total of 150 students. Next

year, LE's 6 and 7 will become 5th/6th grade learning environments. The current configuration of teams and levels in the middle school building will be the same as this year.

Island Village Elementary serves students from kindergarten through 4th grade (K-4). Together with our Sarasota campus, which enrolls students pre-K to grade 3 and our Venice early childhood program, our goal is to provide a traditional Montessori experience for students. As a public school, it is necessary to make some adjustments to insure that students are prepared for standardized testing requirements. It is our trade off in order to provide a free Montessori education to our families. We believe it is possible to do without much change to our lower elementary program. Our greatest challenge at this level is the lack of entering 3 and 4 year-olds to maintain a traditional 3 to 6 early childhood environment. It is harder to maintain a traditional Montessori approach in the upper elementary and middle school levels. Due to current state requirements, we believe it to be in the best interest of our students to introduce our 5th graders to a different structure.

It is important for elementary parents to understand that all of our learning environments in the upper grades are two year mixed classes. This means 5th and 6th grade students are together in one learning environment and 7th and 8th grade students are together in one learning environment. There are four faculty members that work together as a close knit team. In this way, we have combined language arts and social studies to provide a more integrated humanities orientation to these subjects. We have also combined math and science to provide as many opportunities for integration in these subjects as well. In this way, we are able to maintain our commitment to a three hour block of time where students remain in one environment instead of changing classes every 50 minutes. IVMS is one of the few schools remaining in Sarasota County that does not require students to change classes seven times per day for core subjects.

This schedule also permits the flexibility of a variety of offerings for students, including: music, art, dance, drama/improv, soccer, basketball, gardening, programming, leadership, newspaper, Latin, math and reading tutoring, a special focus on writing, community service, philosophy, and more.

The following is a listing of learning environments and grade levels that are planned for next year. This listing may change due to student enrollment:

Sarasota Campus

LE 1- PreK – 4 year olds only/kindergarten LE 2 – 1st/3rd (3rd returning only)

Venice Campus Elementary/Early Childhood

Preschool – 3, 4, kindergarten (3 to 6 years old)

LE 1 - kindergarten/1st grade

LE 2 - kindergarten/1st grade

LE 3 - kindergarten/1st grade

LE 9/10 - kindergarten/1st grade

LE 11 - 3rd/4th

LE 13 - 3rd/4th

LE 16 - 3rd/4th

LE 14 - K (returning only)/1st/2nd

LE 15 – 2nd/3rd

LE 17– 2nd/3rd

LE 18– 2nd/3rd

General

LE 4 – Art Room

LE 5 – Music Room

LE 8- Offices

LE 12 – Computer and science labs

Planning a 2,000 sq. ft. All-purpose/after school/drama center to open next year

Upper/Middle School

LE 6 – 5th/6th (team with LE 7)

LE 7 – 5th/6th (team with LE 6)

LE 19- 7th/8th (team with LE 20)

LE 20- 7th/8th (team with LE 19)

LE 21- 5th/6th (team with LE 22)

LE 22- 5th/6th (team with LE 21)

I hope that this information helps you to understand the current and future directions of our school. The longer students remain in our program the more benefit they will receive. I urge all families to expect your children to graduate in 8th grade, ready to move on to high school, college, and beyond as self-directed, independent learners. High academic achievement by itself is insufficient without the ability to think creatively and be responsible for one's future. This is the fundamental difference between our school and everyone else.

On behalf of our staff, faculty and administrative team, I welcome new and returning families to our school community. We look forward to working with you for the remainder of this year and next.

KymElder
Executive Director/Founder
Island Village Schools