

DATE: July 24, 2023

TO: ICAGeorgia Families and Community

FROM: Robert N. Johnson, Board Chair

Re: ICAGeorgia 2023-2024

Dear ICAGEORGIA Families and Community:

The Board of Directors welcomes you to ICAGeorgia School Year 2023-2024 that we are proud to begin with many successes:

Growth—Middle School on the Horizon: After five years in operation (including two “pandemic” years), we are projecting a record enrollment of 220 students for the coming school year. With this excellent level of growth and the school’s overall performance record, in connection with our upcoming SCSC Charter Contract Renewal (June 2024), ICAGeorgia is looking forward to adding middle school Grade 6 in the 2024-2025 school year.

Academic Success and Diversity: ICAGeorgia has one of the highest population percentages of ESL students (35%) in the State of Georgia. As a Japanese-English Dual Language Immersion School, our school is living proof of how much the Japanese language and culture are treasured around the world. We celebrate ICAGeorgia’s diversity with a record number of Asian students as well as students who have family ties to more than 25 different countries around the world. A few of ICAGeorgia’s significant accomplishments include:

1. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) and GMAS (Georgia Milestones Assessment System) scores have continued to increase from our first year to date. According to the Georgia Department of Education, our overall school grade is close to 90%. In fact, most of our students performed at “advanced” or “distinguished” levels on the GMAS math assessment, which pays credit, in part, to our school’s unique math manipulatives – the Japanese math approach;
2. Our school has a high teacher retention and employs one of the most talented groups of leaders and teachers.
3. We are building a robust afterschool care program. We added a highly credited dance program and will continue to explore new learning opportunities in the future.
4. We use high-quality Japanese and English academic curricula and have reached the Japanese language acquisition goals in listening and speaking aligned with our charter contract.

5. We maintain a strong professional learning program to strengthen our teachers' ability to increase the academic performance of our students; and
6. And finally, every year we are organizing unique global cultural activities, including the Rice Pounding Festival (Mochitsuki), Japanese calligraphy, Hispanic Week, Black History Month, and the "Cultures Around the World" program.

ICAGeorgia Community Activity and Service:

1. PTO & ICAGeorgia have joined forces and are committed to creating a caring atmosphere of community. The PTO contributed to several student activities and our schoolwide field trip. As an example, the recent Japan Children's Festival organized by the PTO was not only a successful fundraiser, but also a wonderful way to bring our community (and local community supporters) together.

2. This past school year, our ICAGeorgia students and families have collaborated on two community service-learning projects—and our student leadership team attended classes on leadership and the importance of giving.

3. Finally, Dining with The Scholars (DWTS), a fundraising effort honoring our students, was a huge success. This year, as ICAGeorgia celebrates five years of service to our community, we are grateful for the support from our Atlanta Consul General Mio Maeda and his office and continue to collaborate with the Japan America Society of Georgia, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, and JapanFest Atlanta on Japanese cultural programming.

Financials and Fundraising Goal: \$75,000.00:

To maintain ICAGeorgia's financial strength and stability, we strive for a position with enough flexibility to be able to handle unforeseen challenges, such as economic downturns. We receive three types of revenue: State funds (Quality Basic Education Earning or QBE), Federal funds, and donations.

1. The QBE State funds (based on full-time student enrollment and our teachers' credentials and experience) in the amount of \$2,651,100.00 in 2023 reflect 89% of all ICAGeorgia revenues. Due to the Midterm Adjusted QBE earnings, increased by our State government, we realized a general fund surplus of \$356,000.00. We were thrilled to be able to reward our dedicated teachers and staff with an additional \$2,000.00 bonus.

2. Federal funds such as Title I, II, IV, and Special Education services constitute 5% of all ICAGeorgia revenues and are allocated based on the number of qualifying families.

3. 2% of all ICAGeorgia revenues are donations received from parents, the Board of Directors, and community supporters. The tireless fundraising activities by the school, Board, and the PTO generated approximately \$64,000.00 in donations during the 2022-2023 school year, falling only slightly short of our goal of \$75,000.00. Particularly, fundraising events such as Giving Tuesday, Dining with the Scholars, and the Children's Day Festival helped to obtain financial support for the school.

While Quality Basic Earnings (QBE) from the State, the State Charter School Grant Programs, and Federal grants support the *basic* student academic requirements, only your donations and the continued support offered by the families and community allow us to purchase the highest quality Japanese-English Program teaching and learning materials and provide a tailored high-quality education that achieves *academic excellence* and serves our community in the best way possible. Therefore, this year, as we seek to renew our Charter Contract and plan for our middle school expansion, we are officially introducing the “ICAGeorgia Annual Partner Sponsorships” program, which is presented in detail in the attached flyer. We are confident that this program will help us exceed our fundraising goal of \$75,000.00.

Thank you for all your support in the past and thank you in advance for your renewed support this year. Also, please help us sign on as many “Partner Sponsors” as possible: Spread the word to your employers, family members, and friends. (And go to <https://www.mightycause.com/donate/Icageorgia> to donate anytime.)

On behalf of the entire ICAGeorgia Board, I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your valuable support of our ICAGeorgia community. It is an honor to serve you. Ishoni Ganbarimashoo!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert N. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Robert N. Johnson, Board Chair
On behalf of ICAGeorgia Board of Directors