

Eighth Message from the President
September 22nd, 2021

Colleagues,

I hope you're feeling healthy and enjoying time with your students and colleagues. I learn a lot about what happens in classrooms by chatting with students and observing their work during their off-periods. I've been pleased to learn that many of you are giving students second chances to demonstrate their understanding when they perform poorly on an assessment. We know they are readjusting to high expectations, and your patience and encouragement is appreciated. When I visit classrooms to witness learning in action, I particularly enjoy entering noisy spaces where there is a high level of simultaneous engagement. I also enjoy speaking with you and that invitation remains open, maybe over lunch or a walk in the afternoon. My office hours sessions these days are at an n=G+1 (Glazer plus one more), so it's now an open season to propose a time that works for you. I want to learn about your work, what inspires you and how you hope to grow at IMSA.

Last week, the Board of Trustees met to approve our proposed budget, discuss the PROMISE Endowment, learn about our equity practices in admissions, and hear about our core pillars this year of Impact, Well-Being, and Equity and Excellence. I'd like to offer a Board recap presentation next Wednesday over Zoom from 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (calendar announcement forthcoming). This will also be a good time to ask questions about the [Innovation Grant proposals](#) (due October 1) related to these pillars. If you are unable to attend, you can [view the Board agenda and materials on Board Docs](#), and send along an email if you have questions.

Also last week, many of you participated in our colleague wellness event in the Academic Pit to explore different facets of your well-being and sense of belonging. You shared some reflections, voted for different fun competitions, practiced different mindful activities, signed up as mentors, wrote your name next to affinity groups and grabbed a treat. Special thanks to Willie Mayes who was instrumental in planning this event. We will use your input as a launching point for activities throughout the year. Just as a heads up, the most desirable challenges include 10,000 steps, positivity and The Great IMSA Baking Show. I have also learned Halloween and the winter holidays are a time to dress up by department!



Last, community health has been looking pretty good with a COVID rate of less than 1%. I'm really proud of you for monitoring closely on campus and also moderating your personal lives in a way that minimizes risk to COVID. Since the Delta variant surge is now declining and leveling off, I will notify students and families later this week that I plan to loosen our travel restrictions starting in October (please keep this confidential and allow me to deliver the news). Bear in mind we are still in a pandemic and we should all monitor our physical distancing and mask wearing when off campus. Special thanks to our Student Affairs and Center for Teaching and Learning teams for a robust array of weekend activities for the students. Personally, I enjoyed helping students make stress balls out of Orbeez (pictured above). We still need a little help this weekend using [this signup](#). Every pair of helping hands matters, no matter your role, as we support student well-being outside the classroom. Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of our students.

Titans Together,
Evan

Dr. Evan M. Glazer
President

ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

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