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Dear ICAGEORGIA Families and Community:

The members of the ICAGEorgia Advisory Board and the ICAGEorgia Board of Directors welcome you to ICAGEorgia School Year 2024-2025 that we are proud to begin with many successes:

Middle School Expansion: ICAGEorgia has received approval to expand to middle school starting in the 2024-2025 school year. Students will continue to enhance their proficiency in both languages.

Music Program: ICAGEorgia is broadening its music program to include middle grades, introducing a chorus and exploring various music genres. Future expansions will include instrumental programs.

Academic Success and Diversity: ICAGEorgia proudly boasts one of the highest percentages of ESL students (35%) in Georgia. As a Japanese-English Dual Language Immersion School, we celebrate the global appreciation of Japanese language and culture. Our diverse community includes a record number of Asian students and families from over 25 countries. Some key achievements include:

- Consistent improvement in IReady Benchmark Assessment and GMAS (Georgia Milestones Assessment System) scores, with a 91.4% content mastery according to the Georgia Department of Education. Many students achieve "advanced" or "distinguished" levels in GMAS math, attributed to our unique Japanese math manipulatives.
- Successfully filling all teacher positions with high-quality educators.
- Developing a robust after-school care program, including a dance program, chess program, and karate program, with plans to introduce more learning opportunities.
- Meeting Japanese language acquisition goals in listening and speaking, aligned with our charter contract, using high-quality Japanese and English curricula.
- Maintaining a strong professional learning program to enhance our teachers' effectiveness in improving student academic performance.
- Organizing unique global cultural activities annually, such as the Rice Pounding Festival (Mochitsuki), Japanese calligraphy, Hispanic Week, Black History Month, and the "Cultures Around the World" program.

ICAGEorgia Community Activity and Service: ICAGEorgia's PTO has collaborated to foster a caring community atmosphere, contributing to various student activities and a school-wide field trip. This past school year, ICAGEorgia students and families participated in community service-learning projects, and our student leadership team attended classes on leadership and the importance of giving. Our fundraising event, Dining with The Scholars (DWTS), was a huge success, honoring our students. As ICAGEorgia celebrates six years of community service, we are grateful for the support from Atlanta Consul General Mio Maeda and his office. We continue to collaborate with the Japan America Society of Georgia, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, and JapanFest Atlanta on Japanese cultural programming.

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.

The **QBE State funds** (based on full-time student enrollment and our teachers' credentials and experience) in the amount of \$3,100,856.00 in 2024 reflect 87% of all ICAGeorgia revenues. Due to the Midterm Adjusted QBE earnings, we realized a general fund surplus of \$426,000.00. We are thrilled to be able to reward our dedicated teachers and staff with a bonus to match with the Gwinnett County Salary Schedule.

Federal funds such as Title I, II, IV, and Special Education services constitute 7.3% of all ICAGeorgia revenues and are allocated based on the number of qualifying families.

In September 2023, ICAGeorgia was awarded the **Replication and Expansion Cohort Program** through September 2024 by the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF). The program with two phases was designed to support existing charter schools of vertical expansion (additional grade bands). During the first phase, the school leaders focused on strategic planning with a national education consultant. This phase helped us to develop our middle school plans and financial strategies. Currently, we are in the second phase receiving technical assistance to implement the strategic plan.

In July 2024, ICAGeorgia applied for \$500,000 **CSP subgrants** with a term of 36 months for opening, replicating, and expanding charter schools. We are eligible to apply because the middle school expansion was approved by the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) on February 28, 2024. This subgrant opportunity is a part of the Georgia Strategic Charter School Growth Initiative. The CSP subgrants will help us purchase additional curriculum materials and equipment.

1.6% of all ICAGeorgia revenues are **donations** received from parents, the Board of Directors, and community supporters (cf. 2% in FY23). The tireless fundraising activities by the school generated approximately \$56,500.00 in donations during the 2023-2024 school year, falling slightly short of our goal of \$75,000.00. Particularly, fundraising events such as Giving Tuesday, Winter Concert, and Dining with the Scholars 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, under a renewed 5-year Charter Contract including approved middle school expansion, we are "renewing" our introduction of the "ICAGeorgia Annual Partner Sponsorships" program, which is presented in detail in the attached flyer. With our joint efforts, 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.)

Thank you for your valuable support of our ICAGeorgia community--it is an honor to serve you-- Ishoni Ganbarimashoo!

ICAGeorgia Board of Directors
ICAGeorgia Advisory Board