

December 28, 2016

Dear Intergenerational School Community Mentor/Partner,

Six years ago, The Intergenerational School became a founding member of the Breakthrough Charter Schools Network. This partnership has provided valuable support to us as the Intergenerational Schools have grown from one to three outstanding schools, with the opening of Near West Intergenerational School and Lakeshore Intergenerational School.

However, after many months of negotiation and mediation, our Boards of Directors have voted unanimously to accept the proposed terms of an agreement that would allow the three Intergenerational Schools to separate from the Breakthrough Charter Schools Network and operate independently with transitional support from BCS and Friends of Breakthrough (FOB). The agreement was reached after extensive and thorough review of potential options and modifications to the network's operating agreement, which was up for renewal.

As a founding member of the Breakthrough network, the Intergenerational Schools share a common vision with BCS that having a variety of school choices is the best way of ensuring that the children we serve have the opportunity to receive an excellent education. Therefore, this decision is not a reflection on the Breakthrough network or any of its member schools that we have been in partnership with over the last six years. Rather, it is a decision that is being made in the best interests of the children we currently serve and those we hope to serve in the future.

With a model of education that focuses on individualized student learning, with strong community participation, smaller class sizes, collaboration with the elder community and specialized teacher training, this natural evolution of our award-winning model provides an opportunity to focus even more energy onto the core mission and vision of our Schools.

All three IG Schools will continue to thrive, striving to provide their more than 600 students with the best education possible. The schools will continue to rely upon a mix of public funding, philanthropic and other community support. Your role as a mentor or partner in the past was vital to the success of the IG Schools and will be even more important as we refocus our energy and resources on the Intergenerational way of educating our students.

We are holding a school community meeting on January 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library to help answer the questions that our school parents and other community members may have at this time. You are cordially invited to attend this meeting or contact our Executive Director, Brooke King or Chief Educator, Mary Ann Vogel with any questions and thoughts you may have about the upcoming separation.

We understand that this announcement may come as a surprise; please know that we are committed to making this a seamless transition for our children, our staff and our community partners as we continue to offer the same high-quality, student-centered education that our students deserve. Once again, please feel free to call the IG School leadership at 216-235-2185 or send an email to info@tisonline.org for more information.

We thank you for trusting our Boards of Directors in this decision. Please let us take this time as well to tell you that we appreciate your support and are truly thankful that you are a part of our school community.


Mary Ann Vogel
Chief Educator


Mark Saffran
Board Chair