



Christian International  
School of Prague

# STATE OF SCHOOL REPORT 2021



# CONTACT US



## **GENERAL & ADMISSIONS**

info@cisprague.org

## **DIRECTOR**

director@cisprague.org

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

teach@cisprague.org



www.cisprague.org



+420 272 730 091

+420 776 358 121



Legerova 5/1878

Prague 2 - 120 00



Christian International  
School of Prague



cisprague\_org

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# A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR



**JODI OPPENHUIZEN**  
*Director*

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**2020-2021  
LEADERSHIP TEAM  
MEMBERS:**

**RACHEL JONKERS**  
*Secondary Coordinator*

**JEFF ROGERS**  
*Chaplain*

**RINDEE TUCKER**  
*Admissions*

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**2020-2021  
SCHOOL BOARD  
MEMBERS:**

**ANDREW FUNKA**  
*Chair*

**MATT FERGUSON**

**KATIE FORD**

**DAN FOREMAN**

**BOYD HACHEL**

**DITA ŠPŮRKOVÁ**

**JESSICA WEAVER**

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 brought great difficulties because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges continued into 2021. There were major changes in education that will continue to impact the Christian International School of Prague (CISP), the Czech Republic, and the rest of the world.

While so much is changing, the powerful message of the Good News of Jesus Christ remains the same. This message is a message of hope. It is a message about a loving God who has sent His Son into the world so that whoever believes in Him can have eternal life. He has called together an amazing dedicated group of staff to make Him known to the next generation.

The mission of CISP is to provide from a Biblical perspective an academically excellent and practically oriented education within a loving community. The four parts of this mission are Biblical perspective, academic excellence, practical orientation, and love. They provide a framework for future decisions of the school and a way to evaluate the present and past.

I am thankful to begin to serve as Director of CISP. Please pray for the school community as we look to God to fulfill the vision of having followers of Jesus expressing their faith by thinking Biblically and loving and serving their community for Him.

With gratitude,  
Jodi L. Oppenhuizen



# CLASS OF 2020



While the last few months of the 2019-2020 school year were impacted by the onset of Covid-19, the seniors still had a socially-distanced graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievement of finishing high school. We congratulate the nine seniors of the Class of 2020 as they leave CISP, take gap years, start working, and attend colleges and universities around the world!

## **PORTRAIT OF A CISP GRADUATE**

*Christlike | Servant-hearted | Compassionate | Inquisitive  
Disciplined | Respectful | Creative | Grateful*

# BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

## VISION

STUDENTS WHO ARE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AMONG THE NATIONS EXPRESSING THEIR FAITH BY THINKING BIBLICALLY, AND LOVING AND SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR HIM.

## MISSION

CISP PROVIDES, FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE, AN ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT AND PRACTICALLY ORIENTED EDUCATION WITHIN A LOVING COMMUNITY.

## CORE VALUES

FAITH IN CHRIST  
WALKING IN TRUTH  
GRACE IN COMMUNITY  
BIBLICAL IN WORLDVIEW  
LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

## SCHOOL VERSE

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,”

—Proverbs 2:6-7



## WHY CISP?

CISP offers families an academically excellent English education for both the Czech and expat community located in the city centre of Prague, Czech Republic. Our school offers this academic focus in a loving Christian community that cares not only for the academic achievement of our students, but also the well-being and success of our students beyond their time at CISP. We are unique in teaching our students to not only strive for academic excellence, but to impact their communities for Christ with compassion and servant leadership. From classroom instruction with a biblical worldview to conflict resolution we seek to impart a biblical perspective. We also aim to exemplify Christ-like behavior to our families and our students in our words and deeds. Not only does CISP offer an academically excellent English education, but we offer an affordable English education option for the expat community compared to other international schools in the Czech Republic.

# ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS



In January 2020, Terry Chumbley announced that he would be stepping down as director of the school. A new leadership team was formed in May 2020 to cover the responsibilities of the school director and principal. Our new school director, Jodi Oppenhuizen wishes to continue with a leadership model. The school charter states that CISP should have two principals, one for elementary and one for secondary. In the future, the leadership team will consist of the director, the principal(s), and 1-2 other staff members that can effectively represent other aspects of the school. The school is also seeking to hire an Assistant Director of Development.

## COVID AND CISP

The current enrollment of the school is 123 compared to 140 last year. In spite of the difficulties, we are incredibly grateful to have classes continue for all grade levels. We continue to fulfill our vision of developing students who are followers of Jesus among the nations expressing their faith by thinking biblically, and loving and serving their communities for Him.

This fall, we were able to begin the school year in-person for all grade levels. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 cases in the Czech Republic increased, requiring new precautionary measures and eventually a return to distance learning for all of our secondary students. Middle school and high school students have remained on distance learning since October.



# ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT

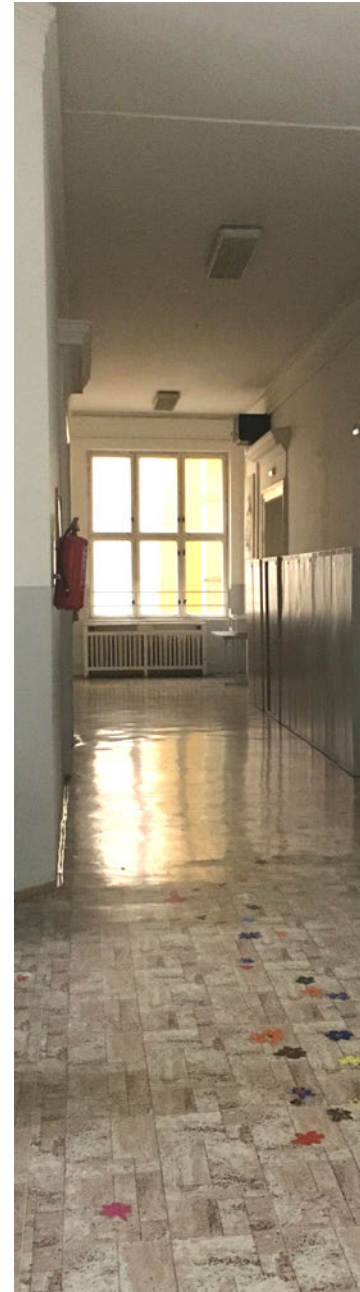
## COVID AND CISP CONTINUED



In mid-October our elementary classes were also required to move to distance learning. Changes to Czech government restrictions have meant altering the mode of learning for our elementary students several times this school year.

Our staff members have demonstrated great flexibility and diligence in the midst of these changes. Some are teaching grades levels or courses that they would not typically teach. This flexibility has been especially helpful, as the borders were closed for US nationals without visas. Which meant several new staff members were not permitted to enter the Czech Republic. Thankfully with the help of online programs and platforms like Google Classroom, Google Meets and Seesaw, our distance learning has operated seamlessly.

There have been challenges with online learning, for example, the amount of screen time and the transferring of assignments/books from teachers to students. To help with these challenges we have been able to implement 'no-screen Wednesdays', where students have assignments to work on offline. We have also been able to host material pick-up days at the school for students to collect new materials and books.





# ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT

## CURRICULUM AT CISP

CISP has a five-year review cycle for all of our subjects in grades 1-12 with the exception of IT which is on a three-year review cycle, as technology advances so quickly. As an international school, we have the freedom to choose our standards from a variety of sources which allows us to serve our student body in a unique way. We have a strong academic program that follows a US-style curriculum. Our adherence to a US-style curriculum is in no way limiting to our student body as we have seen graduates accepted to universities all around the world.



## CISP, COVID, & CURRICULUM

Even with Covid-19 challenges and distance learning, we've continued to teach our curriculum just as in any other school year. Our teachers have worked very hard to adapt our academic program from an in-person classroom experience to a virtual experience.

Parents are welcome to contact the Curriculum Coordinator at [curriculum@cisprague.org](mailto:curriculum@cisprague.org) if they would like to know more about specific standards or resources we use. Additional information is also available on our website.

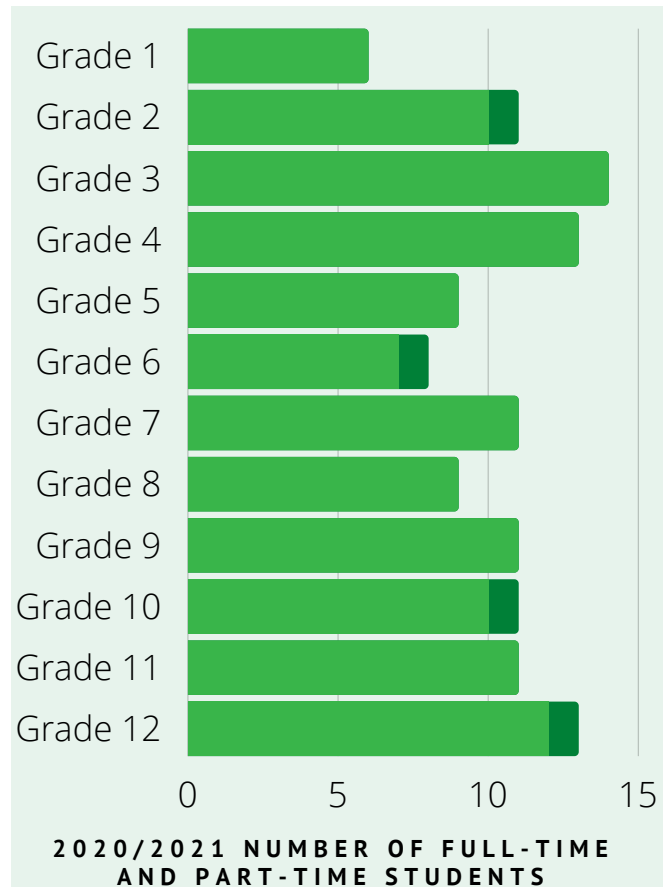
# ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND CLASS SIZES

Class sizes are capped at 16 students, with the option to increase to 18 with Director approval. Smaller class sizes allow our teachers to build relationships with their students, not only in an academic context, but also in a way that allows our teachers to example Christ.

Teachers demonstrate this by caring for the whole life of our students and their families, not just their success in the classroom. Prior to COVID our teachers were often found attending non-CISP events for their students (e.g. sport games, dance recitals, musical performances, etc.).

Programs like Roundtables offer students the opportunity to learn more about God, their classmates, and how to build and strengthen these relationships in a trusting and caring environment. Smaller class sizes also provide students with more individualized attention in each subject so that they may be successful in all areas of their education.



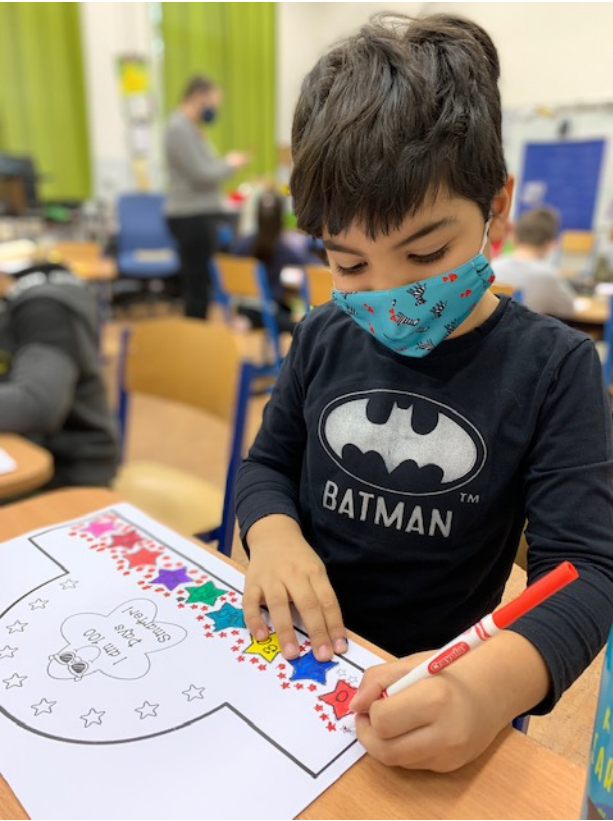
CISP currently has 123 full-time and 4 part-time enrolled students.

WE HAVE 22 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY OUR STUDENT POPULATION THIS YEAR:



# PRACTICALLY ORIENTED

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



The main goal of the English Language Learner Department (ELL) is to enable the students who are non-native English speakers to rise to a level where they can succeed academically in the mainstream classroom. Within the ELL classes, the focus is on reading, writing, listening, and speaking English.

To provide support for ELL student's academic needs the ELL teachers cooperate with classroom teachers. This regular, two-way communication helps our students to be successful. Biannual testing provides teachers and parents with feedback about each student's progress towards English proficiency. ELL program graduates are still monitored as they transition out of the program to ensure they are successful in their classes.

This year, 22 students are enrolled in the ELL program.



# PRACTICALLY ORIENTED

## CZECH LANGUAGE

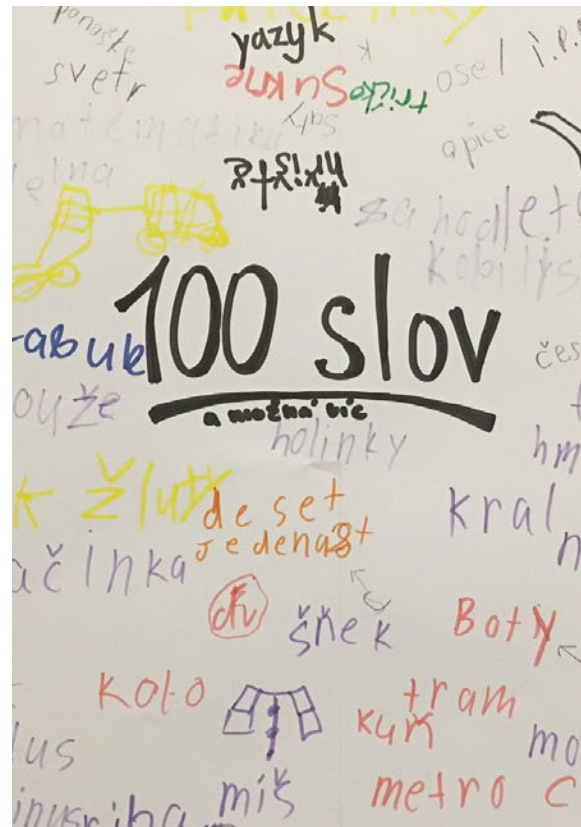
Language is a gift from God to enable communication, so CISP seeks to provide a communicative approach to language learning with emphasis on authentic needs of students living in the Czech environment; focusing not only on language, but on culture and literature as well. We desire to spark an interest in students for life-long language learning.

Smaller class sizes give teachers more space for individual verbal expression. We also work, for example, with authentic songs and news articles, Czech documentaries, cartoons and movies. Students play games to improve language skills and enrich vocabulary. In the native-speaker Czech class, the concept of „dílny čtení“ is introduced to kindle students' interest in reading in the Czech language. We also encourage families to find activities they enjoy within the local Czech speaking communities, which has proven to be a major help in improving students' Czech language skills and motivation.

We are continually seeking new means and activities that the students might enjoy and make the learning experience relevant to life.

With respect to our host country, CISP requires all elementary and middle school students to take Czech language (except for students enrolled in ELL). High school students, in order to obtain U.S. Advanced Diploma, must study a language of their choice for two years (1 year for a U.S. Standard Diploma). For High School students, we currently offer Czech and German as a foreign language.

Lately, we have been pleased to see many teachers at CISP being enthusiastic about learning Czech too! Several are even joining the students in these classes, setting examples for the students of lifelong learning.



# PRACTICALLY ORIENTED

## FALL DRAMA PRODUCTION

CISP Drama presents...

### The Diary of *Anne Frank*

by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman



With a second Covid lockdown approaching in October, the fate of the drama department's fall production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* was unsure. Students and director, Phil Brande, decided to continue work and moved the play to a virtual performance. Over the course of a few months, the play was put together as a 9 part mini-series which premiered in February. The entire production of CISP's *The Diary of Anne Frank* can be seen on the Communications [CISP Youtube channel](#) or on the school's Facebook page under videos.



# LOVING COMMUNITY

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT - KELLY ROBINSON

**Kelly started working at CISP in August 2011. She teaches First and Second Grade and also serves as the Elementary Department Head.**

"It has been amazing to watch what God has done in and through CISP in 10 years. The miraculous ways he has provided for our school and how it has impacted the many, many lives that have walked through its doors. I signed on with a two year contract that has now turned into ten. In my first six months of being here I knew two years wasn't going to be enough. Prague is now one of the places I call home."



### What is your favorite part of your job?

"The wonder of the world that is found in small children. They are experiencing so many firsts and I get to be a part of it. I get to watch them learn to read, and explore the amazing world around them. Young children have a fascination for the simplest of things and they have a faith that can move mountains. I am a seed planter. I get to share the love of Jesus with my students each day and plant the gospel truth in their hearts. If I'm lucky enough I get to watch it grow as they grow year to year in our school."



# LOVING COMMUNITY

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - KADYN TUCKER

KADYN STARTED AS A SOPHOMORE AT CISP AND GRADUATED WITH THE CLASS OF 2018. HE IS CURRENTLY AT SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES STUDYING MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.



For me personally, what made CISP a great school was the community. Prior to moving to Prague, I had been homeschooled for five years, so going back to a traditional high school was daunting enough without considering I was doing so in a foreign country. However, I quickly realized how close-knit CISP was and I felt like I was where I needed to be, even on my first day there. I formed many great friendships, not only with fellow students, but also with teachers, which I think is relatively uncommon in a lot of schools.

I would say some of my best memories made at CISP were during student leadership events. I just had a lot of fun planning events like Clue night, organizing secondary retreat games, and making the weekly announcement videos. It allowed me to build even stronger relationships with the other student leaders as well as the students we planned these activities for."

# LOVING COMMUNITY

## HEARING FROM OUR CHAPLAINS



Spiritual life is not just something we do here at CISP - it is who we are (John 10:10). This theme runs throughout our campus on a daily basis. One of the many ways we provide for spiritual growth is to set aside intentional times each week for corporate worship and the application of God's Word. It may occur as a teacher leads biblical discussion in class, as students join together for weekly chapel and life groups, or as faculty and staff gather for worship, Bible study, and prayer. All of these activities help us as we seek to honor God with our abilities and character.



I HAVE COME THAT THEY  
MAY HAVE LIFE, AND  
HAVE IT TO THE FULL.

JOHN 10:10



# LOVING COMMUNITY

## CHAPEL & ROUNDTABLES



### CHAPEL

CISP chapel is held every Wednesday and is a time where our chaplains preach and teach biblical content in a way that challenges, yet is applicable to the students. We encourage students to explore and practice their faith through various opportunities in chapel which include: student-led worship team, sharing personal stories in chapel, serving in a support position, or participating in class-led chapels. At various times throughout the year we will also have special guest speakers, musicians/artists, all worship chapels, and student worship nights.

### ROUNDTABLES

Every secondary student is placed in a Roundtable group according to their grade and gender. Roundtable groups are led by CISP staff and meet twice a month on Wednesdays for an intentional focus on community and to discuss the current chapel series.

# HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US

We continue to fulfill our vision of developing students who are followers of Jesus among the nations expressing their faith by thinking biblically, and loving and serving their communities for Him.

Perhaps you are interested in partnering with us financially. Details about our two funds, the Aspire Fund (future facility needs) and the Fellowship Fund (student scholarships and staff stipends), can be found below and giving links can be found on our school website.



## ASPIRE

We aspire for this project to provide a center that impacts central Europe. A building that hosts teaching and preaching of the Gospel, hosts conferences to equip others in their mission, music performances, athletic events, mission training, language schools, and a myriad of other opportunities we have not even fathomed at this point. All within the command to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

## FELLOWSHIP

The CISP Fellowship Fund provides scholarships and stipends to make learning and teaching at CISP more accessible to more individuals. CISP, in turn, is enriched by the gifts, opportunities, and diversity that these individuals bring. Your gift extends the impact CISP can have in the lives of individuals and families in the Czech Republic and beyond.

# ACCREDITATION & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

CISP was first accredited in 2013 by ACSI and MSA. We expected our second accreditation visit in May 2020, but due to the pandemic, it was postponed until the fall 2021. Since 2013, CISP has been working on making improvements based on our Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Here is a summary of how CISP has improved since 2013.



## CISP TEACHERS HAVE WORKED TO IMPROVE STUDENT WRITING BY

- Dedicating a department chair to English,
- Adopting US Common Core standards for English language arts,
- Developing curriculum maps,
- Conducting professional development,
- Purchasing 6+1 Traits curriculum in the elementary,
- Incorporating writing components into all secondary courses,
- Adding a 9th grade Personal Communications course,
- Using IXL.com for grammar practice.

## CISP HAS MADE PROGRESS TOWARDS A PERMANENT FACILITY BY

- Partnering with a capital campaign consulting firm,
- Starting a Capital Campaign,
- Hiring a Consulting company to represent us in discussion with developers in Prague,
- Hiring architects who have drafted designs for a school.

## CISP ADDRESSED SECURITY ISSUES IN THE LEGEROVA BUILDING BY

- Revising the Security and Crisis Plan,
- Utilizing ITIC and ISIC cards for all staff and students,
- Hiring a Czech safety and security consultant who visits yearly.

## CISP INCREASED ITS TECHNOLOGY BY

- Writing a technology plan,
- Establishing goals for purchasing equipment,
- Setting up the Legerova building: phone system, rewiring, server, access points, bell and alarm system,
- Increasing technology budget,
- Hiring a full-time IT Manager,
- Training staff on Google Education Platform,
- Purchasing Chromebooks for every student in grades 6-12, and more for staff and elementary students.

# ACCREDITATION & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

## CISP TEACHERS HAVE IMPROVED CURRICULUM DOCUMENTATION AND USE OF STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES BY

- Aligning curriculum to external standards,
- Reviewing standardized testing scores to find students' strengths and weaknesses and school-wide trends,
- Changing to MAP testing which provides better, immediate reports,
- Utilizing an online program to organize all curricular documents.

## CISP ADMINISTRATION HAS ESTABLISHED A STABLE FINANCIAL BASE BY

- Hiring a full-time business manager,
- Using an outside accounting firm,
- Developing a donor base,
- Building the school's resources to (as of March 2021):
  - Capital fund of 5,112,150 CZK
  - Scholarship fund of 1,106,926 CZK
  - Saving fund of 4,584,011 CZK.



## CISP HAS MADE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ELL PROGRAM BY

- Dedicating more staff to the ELL department,
- Refining the ELL policy,
- Revising admissions tests to ensure students can succeed in the grade they are placed,
- Refocusing the High School ELL curriculum on grammar, writing, and reading,
- Tracking and supporting students after they graduate from the ELL program.

## CISP HAS INCREASED STAFF RETENTION. AS OF SPRING 2020:

- 33% of our staff have been at CISP for five or more years,
- 60% have been at CISP more than 2 years,
- 83% have been at CISP for 2 or more years, or are planning to stay at least 2 years.

CISP has grown so much since 2013! We are so thankful for the collaboration of all the staff to accomplish these goals, and for the Lord's grace in sustaining CISP through the years. The administration is currently writing a new CSIP for the next accreditation period.

