



November 8, 2023

I couldn't wait for my first day at IHMS.

You see, as the youngest of six children, I had watched my older brothers and sisters get ready for school every day. I imagined what their days were like. The friends they were making. The games they were playing. All the interesting things they were learning!

In the meantime, I had to content myself with being the little sister. I happily sat in the audience at Christmas concerts. Cheered at games with my mom and dad, watching Maria, Chris, John, Nick and Anna-Marie play sports. Proudly clapped for the achievements of my brothers and sisters at end-of-year award ceremonies.

And now it was my turn!

I arrived and got to take my place in the kindergarten classroom, which was filled with tiny chairs and desks (just my size!), books that would take us on adventures, arts and crafts supplies that would fuel our imaginations, and Sister Anne, whose calm and loving presence reassured us that we were in the very best place.

Do you remember how you felt on your first day of school? I bet if you think hard enough, you can put yourself right there.

Over the years, there were many concerts, liturgies, science fairs, field trips, competitions, sporting events, cultural activities, and award ceremonies.

Some of my most cherished memories as a young student at IHMS were learning about and experiencing some of our wonderful Ukrainian traditions - like writing pysanky with Mrs. Wdowiak, baking paska with Mrs. Lukie, and learning Ukrainian folk songs with Pani Stanowych.

Most importantly, **my time at IHMS was instrumental in the development of my profound love for God and our Ukrainian Catholic faith.** I was given many opportunities to receive the sacraments, to pray together as a school community, and to learn about our faith from so many dedicated staff, Sisters and priests at the school. It is thanks to the many good values and beliefs I learned and experienced at IHMS that I have become the person I am today.

Julianna, Kindergarten (1993)



Fast forward some 20 years, and I was filled with anticipation because I couldn't wait for our son Sam's first day at IHMS. My husband and I made the decision to send him because **we wanted him to benefit from the enriching environment, rooted in deep faith and our beautiful Ukrainian culture** that we had experienced.

If you have visited the school recently, you will know that spirit is alive and well.

While the best of IHMS stays the same, I've unfortunately been surprised by other things that haven't changed. Like the classroom furniture. And the bathrooms!

Sam, Kindergarten (2019)



You may be aware that, as an independent school, IHMS receives per-student funding of only 50% the rate in the public school system.

But did you know that IHMS receives zero government dollars for capital costs? That means in addition to relying on tuition to cover the balance of what's needed to teach our kids, **funding for any renovations, furniture, expansion, repairs and ongoing maintenance must also be raised and paid for by the school itself.**

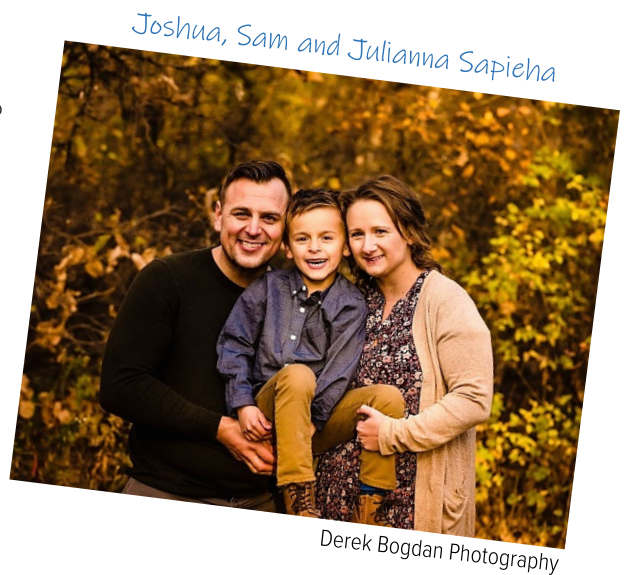
Thanks to a once-in-a-century pandemic, for safety purposes, IHMS received one-time government funding to upgrade the ventilation. At the same time, they were able to dip into limited reserve funding to replace carpets and blinds. And thanks to a successful campaign in 2021 where you raised more than \$20,000, you and I will enjoy sitting in brand new, comfortable chairs at our children's concerts!

But right now, the school needs to upgrade classroom furniture. Currently the students in kindergarten to grade six are using the very same furniture that seemed old when I myself attended IHMS. (It was!)

We are fortunate that the founders of the school invested in high-quality and durable materials that have largely held up. But after 60 years, it's time for the desks and chairs to graduate, and to invest in new furniture to take the school well into the 21st century. With attendance continuing to grow - including more than 65 students from Ukraine! - and most classes now full, will you help make this investment in our children's comfort and learning?

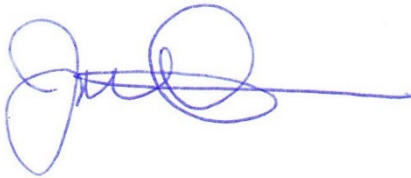
Furniture for each classroom costs \$14,305. Our goal for this year's Back to School fundraising campaign is to raise enough for furniture in at least three classrooms. Your gift - \$50, \$100, \$250 or whatever you can share - will help.

On behalf of all the parents and students, thank you for believing in the importance of IHMS. Together, we continue to entrust the teachers and staff with our children's education and formation.



No matter how much the world changes, you can count on a solid foundation at IHMS that helps raise compassionate people of character.

Sincerely,



Julianna Sapiiha (née Sirdar, '02)
Proud Mom of Sam

P.S. The Grade 7 and 8 classrooms were updated this summer - what a difference! Your support will make learning more comfortable for elementary students as well.

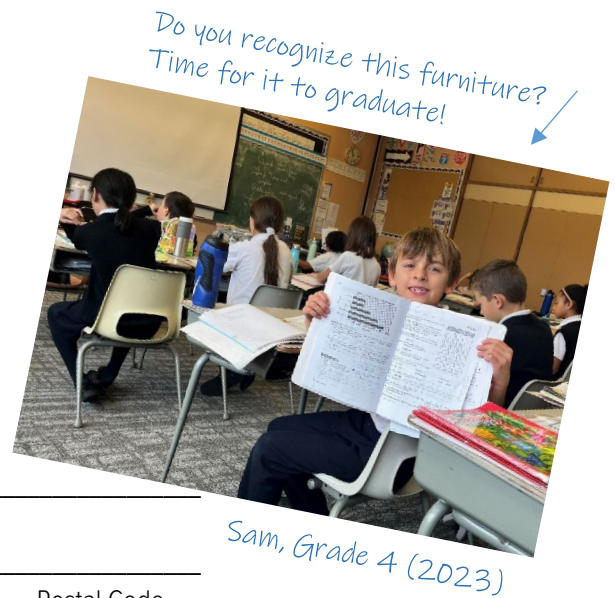
We'd love to see you at school! Please join us for this year's St. Nicholas Concert (December 6, 2 p.m.), the K-Grade 3 Christmas Concert (December 20, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.) and the Grade 4-8 Christmas Concert (December 21, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.) in the Gym.

Please turn over...

YES! I will help make learning more comfortable for students like Sam today!

Upgrading a classroom:

Chairs with bookracks	30 x \$157
Student desks with slide-in tote	30 x \$140
Cabinet to lock totes	\$4,056
Teacher desk on casters	\$1,339
TOTAL per classroom:	\$14,305
x 7 classrooms = \$100,135 (plus taxes and shipping)	



Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____ Email Address _____



Scan to donate online!

Option 1: One-time gift

I will make a special gift of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

- I have enclosed a cheque payable to **Lubov SSMI Foundation Inc.** (address at bottom). Lubov is the fundraising arm of IHMS and the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Charitable registration #80772 9108 RR0001.
- I prefer to give by credit card (complete payment info below).

Option 2: Monthly gift

I will make a recurring gift every month to help provide consistent funding. Your account will be charged once a month (complete payment info below). You can also set up eTransfer from your bank to info@lubovfoundation.ca.

\$10/month \$25/month \$50/month \$100/month Other \$ _____/month

Donations of \$25 and more will receive a charitable tax receipt. Monthly gifts will receive an annual receipt for total gifts every February.

Payment information: Visa MasterCard American Express

_____ MM/YY _____
 Card number Expiry date CVV Name on Card

- Yes, I would like to receive updates from IHMS and Lubov. Mail Email _____
- My gift is in honour/memory (circle one) of: _____

Would you like to share a story or memory about your connection to IHMS? We'd love to hear from you! Pop us a note below, call Lubov CEO Katherine Fox (204-942-0443), or email kfox@lubovfoundation.ca and we will set up a visit.

