

INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE
2009-2010

PARENT HANDBOOK

©1999

History

The mission of ILI is to improve academic and social success for students by reducing racial tensions in schools and promoting cultural understanding through inter-cultural experiences. This is a proactive program which encourages students from the four feeder elementary schools, to explore issues of race and cultural diversity.

In the spring of 1999, a small pilot group of 7th grade students from Lac du Flambeau Grade School and North Lakeland Elementary School (NLES) were brought together for a number of face-to-face sessions, facilitated by adult facilitators from our community. During the 1999-2000 school year, the original pilot group plus a new 4th grade pilot group participated in the program. Based on the success of these pilot projects, the program expanded for the 2000-2001 school year to include all four feeder elementary schools. The project also continued to work at Lakeland Union High School (LUHS) with the original 10 students from the 1999 pilot. ILI's numbers have consistently grown over the years:

1999-2000: 32 students in 2 feeder elementary schools
2000-2001: 128 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2001-2002: 265 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2002-2003: 406 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2003-2004: 520 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2004-2005: 650 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2005-2006: 730 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2006-2007: 830 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2007-2008: 688 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS
2008-2009: 883 students in 4 feeder elementary schools and LUHS

The goal is to have the ILI program available for students from 4th -8th grade-so they have five years of connecting and working with each other before they enter high school. Our strategy has been to add a 4th grade group of students each year, while continuing to work with the students from previous years. This school year we will have students from 4th-8th grades from the four grade schools in the ILI elementary program.

There are two sessions per year for students in the elementary program. Students are split into teams and attend sessions where they learn about each others' cultures, traditions and the issues that have been barriers, and have caused conflict between them, over the years. They learn these concepts through experiential active learning techniques, games, initiatives and service learning projects that encourage a sense of community and healthy risk taking to solve problems. ILI sessions are led by professional facilitators from across the community, and are held mainly at Camp Jorn and Camp Nawakwa, where students can explore these issues in a fun and safe atmosphere. ILI staff has developed curriculum specific to each grade level that states each sessions' goals and objectives, connecting these to state, other publicly mandated standards of education as well as other "standards of the heart" ILI staff feel are essential for strong, healthy children.

The LUHS ILI program continues to work with 9th through 12th grade students to develop the ILI program for the large numbers of ILI elementary students that began attending LUHS starting in the 2005-2006 school year. These students are mentors to the elementary students at each of their sessions as well as facilitators-in-training. In addition they hold regular bi-monthly meetings of their own at LUHS where they continue to work on issues of racism and the barriers between our cultures through more advanced experiential activities and service learning projects. In addition, ILI staff is helping these students discover their own gifts as facilitators and mentors for the younger students. ILI staff also offers 9th-12th grade students an After School Leadership Program every Wednesday after school for 2 hours for students who are seeking a more involved experience-students learn the local history of our communities and are also trained in advanced facilitation skills as group leaders/mentors for the elementary ILI program. The final component of the LUHS ILI effort is an After School Learning Center

that meets Tuesday-Thursday after school in the student services room. Students who participate in this program have access to LUHS and ILI staff tutors who help them with their academic work.

The effectiveness of the program is being studied by assessing student evaluations that are given after each session, teacher evaluation forms from each session, and annual attitudinal surveys that are filled out by students, parents and teachers. We are also involved in a longer term evaluation project that includes getting an understanding of a "baseline" of student understanding of cultural issues that we will compare in later years as the elementary ILI students begin to flow into the high school in greater numbers. True effectiveness is harder to measure, how children feel about themselves and each other, but we attempt to discover this through student journals and other methods.

The ILI is a non-profit organization.

Student Benefits

For students, ILI provides the chance to break the systemic cycle of fear, suspicion, mistrust and intolerance that has vexed their older siblings, parents and grandparents. The ILI sessions give students, for the first time, the opportunity to understand these concepts through a sequenced series of sessions in a culturally mixed setting.

- ❑ ILI brings adult facilitators together to share cultural knowledge, conflict resolution training skills and life experience with students from area schools.
- ❑ LUHS ILI students come to your child's sessions to act as role models, mentors and facilitators. This enables younger students to have positive experiences with LUHS students and the opportunity to see positive interactions between students of diverse backgrounds.
- ❑ ILI provides a forum for special presentations by guest facilitators who can highlight the diversity of cultural traditions and histories.
- ❑ Students from different backgrounds are encouraged to speak and interact in a safe and rewarding atmosphere.

ILI staff has written, and revised, specific curriculum that ties the goals and objectives of the program to various standards developed by Wisconsin state educators and legislators as well as a set of standards developed through our efforts in ILI. The purpose of this exercise was to illustrate how students are fulfilling many of these mandates while attending ILI sessions and to give focus and framework to the scope and sequence of activities we have developed for each grade level.

What To Expect

If your child chooses to participate in this program, he/she will be assigned to a team of around 24-30 students. These teams will be split again into small groups, so most students will work in groups of 12-15 during their sessions. Each smaller group will work with a team of an ILI facilitator and LUHS ILI student mentors/facilitators.

- ❑ Each elementary school team will meet face-to-face for two full-day sessions during the school year. Each high school group will meet once every other week for an activity period as well as have the opportunity to mentor/facilitate one of the elementary student teams throughout the year.
- ❑ ILI facilitators plan and lead all of the activities for each session, with help from LUHS ILI students.
- ❑ The locations for these meetings will be mainly at Camp Jorn (located in Manitowish Waters), or Camp Nawakwa (located in Lac du Flambeau).
- ❑ Your child's teacher, or teachers designated by your school, will accompany him/her to the sessions.
- ❑ The schools will provide transportation to and from each session.
- ❑ The ILI program provides a snack and lunch at each session.
- ❑ We ask your permission to survey your child's experiences in ILI to assess our strengths and weaknesses as well as what your child learns at their sessions. (Permission form included in this packet).

- **There are no fees that you or your child need worry about for this program- all funds are raised by ILI staff through grants and donations from your community neighbors. If you are interested in donating to ILI please call Craig Kerr at 715-525-9573 and he will send you our "Friends of ILI" newsletter which includes information on giving.**

Parental Participation

You are encouraged to participate as well! If you are interested you may attend any of the sessions and either participate or observe.

- Fill in your email or phone number if you would like to be contacted about session dates and locations.
- Please check out the Parent Link on the ILI website at www.ilileadership.org.
- Feel free to call anytime with your questions, suggestions or concerns. This is a community-wide project that will only improve with your input.
- Do you have any special activities or traditions from your culture that you would like to share at a session? Let us know on the attached parent form.
- Talk with your child about their ILI experiences-they will be full of questions and excitement after a fun day with their new friends.

ILI Staff Team

- **Craig Kerr, Interim Project Director** ckerr@ilileadership.org 525-9573
- **Ernie St. Germaine, Curriculum/Facilitator** uncle_ernie29@hotmail.com 356-5252 x496
- **Matt White, Volunteer & Student Program Coordinator** mwhite@ilileadership.org 904-0311
- **Bob Kovar, Project Director** bkovar@ilileadership.org 614-8831

Please fill out and sign the attached forms and return to your child's' teacher or school as soon as possible. Thank you!

ILI Permission Form

We, the undersigned, give permission for our child _____ to be a part of the Intercultural Leadership Initiative, Inc Program which is a community-wide effort in partnership with North Lakeland Elementary School, Lac du Flambeau Grade School, Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk Elementary School, Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Grade School and Lakeland Union High School. This includes permission to attend sessions outside of the traditional classroom, participation in experiential learning activities, and permission to fill out ILI specific surveys and evaluation

Parent or Guardian Initials

Online Privacy Protection Form

I, the parent/guardian of _____, give my permission for his/her student work, name and/or picture to be used on the ILI website during the current school year. By checking the following items, I will:

- _____ allow the use of my child's first name when his/her work is used
- _____ allow the use of the following pen name: _____
- _____ allow my child's work and/or picture to be used without name
- _____ not allow the use of my child's work, name and/or picture on the ILI website

(Parent/Guardian Initial)

Media Protection Form

I, the parent/guardian of _____, give my permission for his/her student work, name and/or picture to be used in the media concerning ILI activities during the current school year. By checking the following items, I will:

- _____ allow the use of my child's first name when his/her work is used
- _____ allow the use of the following pen name: _____
- _____ allow my child's work and/or picture to be used without name
- _____ not allow the use of my child's work, name and/or picture in the media

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Parent Participation Form

Feel free to come and visit or help out with any of our sessions 4th through 12th grade, even if your child is not in that grade. We love to have visitors. I am interested in participating in the ILI program (check the following):

- I would like to receive **email** or **phone** notification of session dates and locations (circle one)
- I would be interested in volunteering to work behind the scenes (i.e. serving lunch, craft preparation, etc) for _____ grade sessions.
- I would like to volunteer as a chaperone for _____ grade sessions.
- I would be interested in sharing stories, skills, crafts, teaching, etc for _____ grade sessions.
- I would be interested in helping with the following special events:
___ Fundraisers ___ Trips ___ Overnights ___ Service Projects ___ Mailing Preparation

Name _____ Email _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

**INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE
PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM AND LIABILITY WAIVER**

Participant's name: _____
Birth date: _____ Sex: _____
Parent/Guardian's name: _____
Home address: _____
Home phone: _____ Business phone: _____

I, _____, grant permission for my child, _____ to participate in the following event that requires transportation to a location away from the school. This activity will take place under the guidance and direction of ILI employees and/or agents.

Type of event: **Intercultural Leadership Initiative Session**
Destination of event: **Camp Jorn, Camp Nawakwa, or LUHS School Forest**
Individual in charge: **Craig Kerr, Ernie St. Germaine, and/or Matt White**
Estimated time of departure and return: **Departure 8:30 Arrival 2:30**
Mode of transportation to and from event: **Van or Bus**

As parent and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the above named minor ("participant").

I agree on behalf of myself, my child named herein, or our heirs, successors, and assigns, to hold harmless and defend ILI, its employees and agents associated with the event, arising from or in connection with my child attending the event or in connection with any illness or injury or cost of medical treatment in connection therewith, including negligence on the part of participant. This liability waiver does not apply to any illness or injury that occurs as a result of negligent acts committed by any ILI employee or agent.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby warrant that to the best of my knowledge, my child is in good health, and I assume all responsibility for the health of my child. (Of the following statements pertaining to medical matters, sign only those that are applicable.)

Emergency Medical Treatment: In the event of an emergency, I hereby give permission to transport my child to a hospital for emergency medical or surgical treatment. I wish to be advised prior to any further treatment by the hospital or doctor. In the event of an emergency, if you are unable to reach me at the above numbers, contact:

Name & relationship: _____
Phone: _____ Family doctor: _____ Phone: _____
Family Health Plan Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Other Medical Treatment: In the event it comes to the attention of ILI that my child becomes ill with symptoms such as headache, vomiting, sore throat, fever, diarrhea, I want to be contacted immediately.

Signature: _____ Date: _____