

# ISD

INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF  
DÜSSELDORF

SINCE 1968



## Meet your **counsellor**...

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I am a third-culture Canadian – born in Newfoundland, raised in Northern British Columbia, and lived for many years in Vancouver before moving to Dusseldorf in 2004. When I moved abroad, I left behind my parents, 3 siblings, 2 nephews, my dog Hershey (who went to live with my brother), and the greatest group of friends anyone could ever have. It was definitely a tough transition. I clearly remember those first few weeks and months in Germany. There were many times when I thought that a life abroad was not for me, but here I am more than a decade later, still working for one of the best International Schools in Europe. In the meantime, my siblings have been busy getting married and having children, and my immediate family has expanded to a total of 6 nephews – each of my siblings has 2 boys! I am certainly very thankful for the long ISD summers so I can go home and spend time with them.

When I first arrived at ISD, I started out as the grade 6-8 Counsellor and Life Skills teacher in what was then the Middle School. Four years later in 2008, the opportunity arose to work with students in 11th and 12th grade as the University Admissions Counsellor for universities around the world. This was a very exciting change as it meant learning about admissions procedures to a diverse range of countries other than Canada, including the UK, The Netherlands, several EU countries, the United States, and more! The challenge to help students find the right place to pursue their higher education has definitely become one that I very much enjoy. With every new graduating class comes a unique set of goals and dreams, and it is truly a pleasure to come to work every day and help students to realize their aspirations.

In 2012, my counselling role was expanded beyond just university admissions to include caring for the emotional, social and mental health of our DP students. Now, as one of the three Grade 9-12 Counsellors, I share the responsibility of attending to the full spectrum of needs for all grade 9-12 students – personal and/or academic. In this respect, I enjoy taking a brief, solution-focussed approach to helping students manage any issues they may be facing. It has been a wonderful task to support students in a more comprehensive way and this has made my job as a counsellor that much more rewarding.

Finally, as the Counselling Department Head, I lead our dynamic team of teachers and counsellors. Together, we work to provide the balance that all students need to be successful on both a personal and academic level. I am so blessed to work with such a talented team of professionals who are dedicated to ensuring that every ISD student is able to grow and develop from their experience here.

My time at ISD has been highly fulfilling. I love my job and I cherish the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students I work with. When I first moved here, I could never have imagined being here this long. There is something very special about ISD, and I am proud to be a part of this school.