



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

THREE MINUTES, FOUR SECONDS

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ACS (Independent)



Three minutes, four seconds.

The time it takes to determine whether a student arrives in school on time or be marked late.

Prior to the start of morning assembly, our school's sound system plays the morning assembly song. A practice for slightly more than a decade, the same morning assembly song will be aired just before flag-raising for the whole of the academic year. A new song is selected at the beginning of the year, and for all of us in ACS(I), the end of the song marks the start to the school day.

Beyond being a marker to determine if one is punctual or late for school, the morning assembly song has become an endearing prelude that has grown on each cohort. It has become a tradition for the graduating cohort to play the four (for 'O' level graduates) or six (for IB graduates) morning assembly songs that they have listened to every morning, for the four or six years that they have spent as students in ACS(I) before they bid the school farewell. Beyond a walk down memory lane, every year's morning assembly song has become one of the centerpieces that characterises most of our students' time during their school-going years with us.

"Start a Fire in Me" by the American Christian band *Unspoken* has been selected as this year's morning assembly song. After selecting this song together with the input of my colleague, Mr See Teck Hock, one of our students, Elijah Chao, mooted the idea of the formation of a school band to record this song in a version that they would arrange.

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Together with his friends Aden Low, Melanie Tan, Jared Lim, Brennon Choo, Alexa Ling, Rebecca Lam, Elise Sun, Ashley Yeo, Peter Gan, Joel Long, Joshua Tan and Lim Jin Yi, their version was played as the curtain-raiser when “Start a Fire in Me” was

Start a fire in my soul
 Fan the flame and make it grow
 So there's no doubt or denying
 Let it burn so brightly
 That everyone around can see
 That it's You
 That it's You that we need
 Start a fire in me

introduced as our morning assembly song during 2022 Welcome Chapel. Elijah was invited to share his reflections of the song with the school. He spoke about God being our source of light, whether in good or bad days, and reminded us to be the spark, no matter how big or small, to build each other up.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

At times such as these when we are still finding our way through a pandemic, when we know the importance of maintaining links with family and friends for sustenance and strength, this year’s morning assembly song keeps us focused on God and spurs us to be that fire to motivate and grow one another in a way that pleases God – just as our 2022 Theme Verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to.

And so, while three minutes, four seconds are all that is left to determine if we will be punctual for school, for every school day in 2022, these precious three minutes, four seconds will spur us to nurture a school family that encourages one another and builds each other up.