



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018





# WHY WE DO IT?



**Dr. Catriona Moran**  
*Head of School*

## Offering The Best of US and International Education in HCMC

Our SSIS parent community deserves to know how our school is performing in relation to our ambitious mission as a school. How prepared are our students for college success in the USA or internationally? How do we measure the “intellectual and personal development of each student” and to what extent are our students “prepared for a purposeful life as a global citizen?” These are not easy questions to answer, and yet that is the purpose of this report. I am proud to present the SSIS Annual Report 2017-2018 which is focusing on inquiry throughout the school.

This report strives to capture what we do at SSIS that matters most; therefore, it focuses on student participation and performance in key areas. This report presents our students’ successes in the areas of academics, college admissions, arts, and athletics. In addition, we share the school’s growth in professional development, communications, and facilities. These achievements are advanced and supported by the unwavering dedication of the Board, Leadership Team, Faculty and Staff to realize the SSIS Schoolwide Strategic Plan in pursuit of the School’s mission.

The Strategic Plan (2017-2020) focuses on fostering excellence in all areas of the School. Through **Institutional Excellence** we assure SSIS’s long-term sustainability and effectiveness in achieving our mission. Through **Academic & Program Excellence** we offer students programs and experiences that empower them to realize their full academic and personal potential. Our continued commitment to **Faculty Excellence** means that our students are inspired and taught by the best, most qualified and effective teachers in the world. And, finally, through **Community Pride & Engagement** we leave our mark on our school community, our district, our city and the country in which are situated, both as a leader and as a responsible citizen.

Thank you, parents, for entrusting your children into our care. We take our role of fostering the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of all students very seriously resulting in the excellent outcomes you see in this report and in the ongoing dedication to growth and improvement demonstrated by the School year after year. SSIS will continue to be the school that offers the best in US and international education into the future. I look forward to a continued fruitful partnership with the parents of the students we serve in the SSIS community.

Sincerely,

**Catriona Moran**



# WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?



## MISSION STATEMENT

SSIS is a college preparatory school committed to the intellectual and personal development of each student in preparation for a purposeful life as a global citizen.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Learning at SSIS is an interactive process of discovery involving students, teachers, and parents: all working to support the development of the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to succeed in school and later in life.

Our curriculum emanates from the school's mission, incorporates our many cultures, and is broader than the content of study. All courses of study are student-centered, focused on making meaning, and rooted in conceptual understanding.

The cultural context of an international school is potentially a life-changing opportunity. SSIS aims to guide students towards capitalizing on that opportunity and making the experience as fulfilling and rewarding as possible.

## CORE VALUES

Saigon South International School's Core Values play a vital role in every student's daily life. Unlike a uniform which can be taken off at the end of the day, the Core Values are attributes which will remain with our students for the rest of their lives. *Academic Excellence*, *Sense of Self*, *Balance in Life*, *Dedicated Service*, and *Respect for All* are at the heart of the school mission and at the center of all we do.

## CORE VALUES ICONS & KEY CONCEPTS

Starting with their beliefs and vision for Saigon South International School, Ferdinand Tsien and Lawrence S Ting developed the Core Values and mission statement for the school. Their definitions of each of the Core Values goes beyond the traditional meanings and help to guide our students lives outside of the classroom and their time with us. They saw the need for a rich academic program to include areas that are often overlooked or underemphasized by some schools. In looking to the academic program, and the type of students that SSIS would graduate and send out into the world, they believed that our Core Values would immeasurably enrich learning. Our students should have a clear understanding of themselves and experience a full and rich academic experience which included art, music, drama and athletics. They should feel a responsibility to family, school, community and the world and treat all work, whether in business or charity, as an act of service. Finally, they should look upon all people as equal in dignity and worthy of respect.





# HOW DO WE SHARE IT ?

SSIS uses a multitude of communication channels to ensure that our parents are up to date with all Over things happening on campus.

The Principal Coffee's continued and where led by divisional Principals, Technology and Literacy Coaches as well as the Curriculum Director. We realize that our commitment to improving the relationship between home and school has a direct effect on your families experience at SSIS and your child's learning as well.



## SSIS WEBSITE

### 43,000 Users:

The number of people who visited our site



### 202,000 Page views:

A view of a page on the site

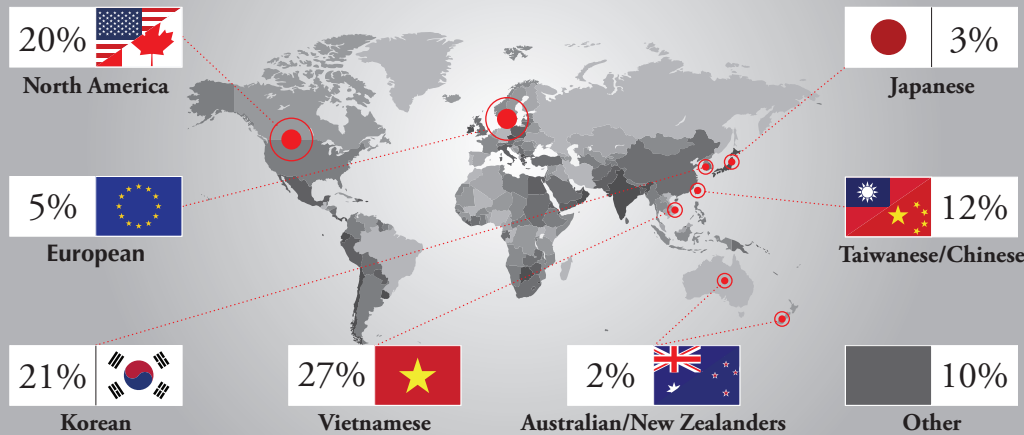




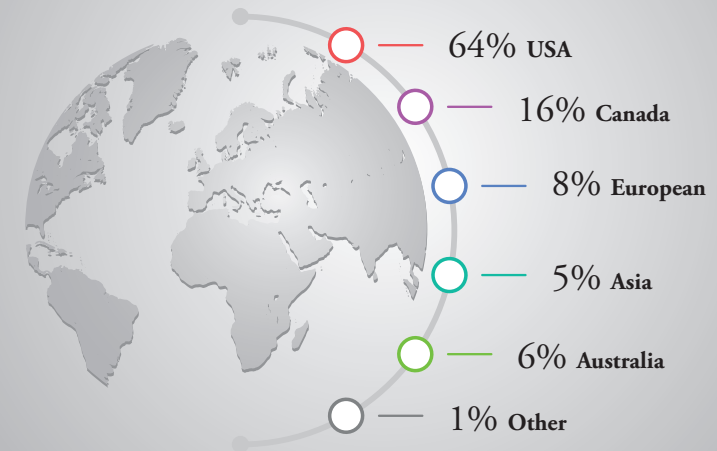
# WHO ARE THE DRAGONS?



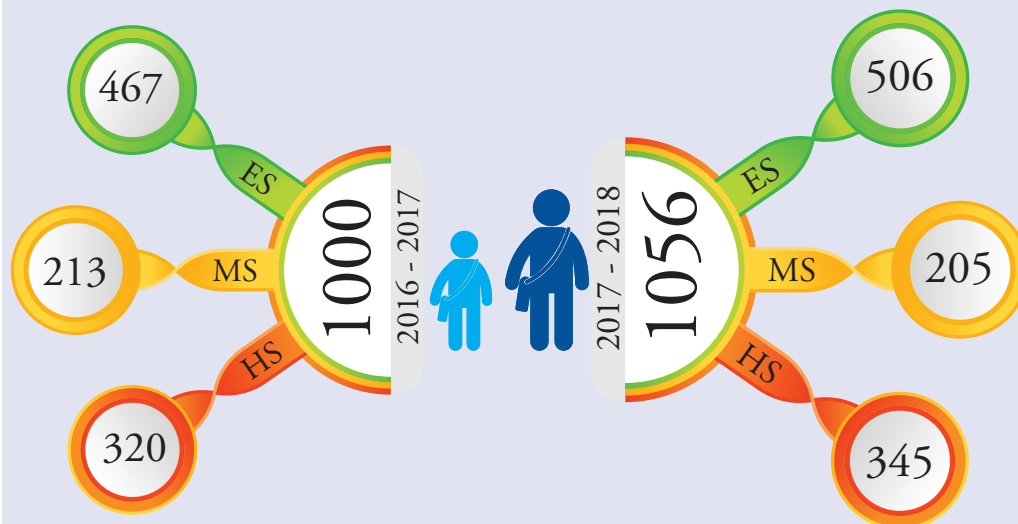
## OUR STUDENTS NATIONALITIES



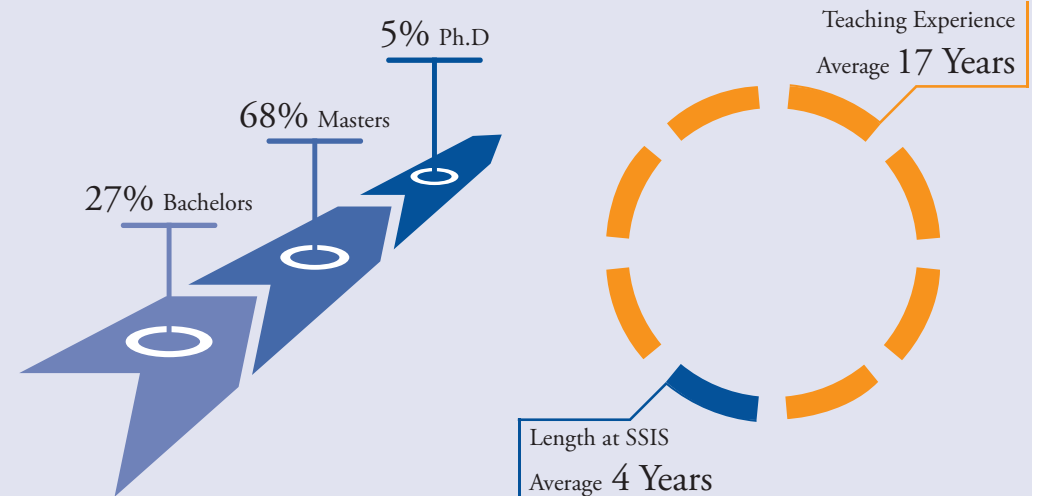
## OUR TEACHERS NATIONALITIES



## STUDENT NUMBERS



## DEGREES





# HOW ARE THEY ABLE TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL?

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## WEEK WITHOUT WALLS & FIELD TRIPS

Week Without Walls (WWW) and Field Trips provide our students authentic opportunities to experience adventure, service and cultural exchange linked to our SSIS Core Values. Whether the students travel overseas, with Vietnam or within HCMC they can further develop their independence, collaboration skills and confidence.





# WHAT DEMONSTRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?

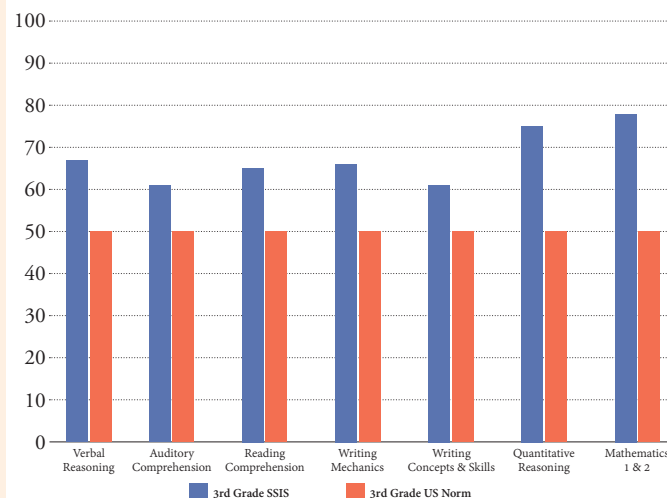


## CTP

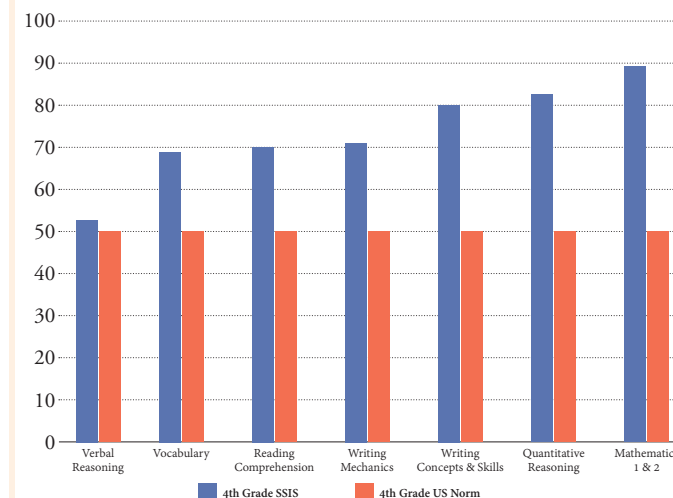
SSIS initiated the use of CTP for the first time in 2017-2018 for grades 3 - 7. Previously, SSIS utilized Measures of Academic Program (MAP). CTP is a criterion-referenced assessment that measures literacy and numeracy, meaning students are assessed on a set criterion for each grade level and set of skills for the grade level.

Across both subject, areas and all grade levels, SSIS students' median percentile rank is above the United States Norm of 50<sup>th</sup>ile. Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics 1 and 2 were consistently the strongest areas for SSIS students.

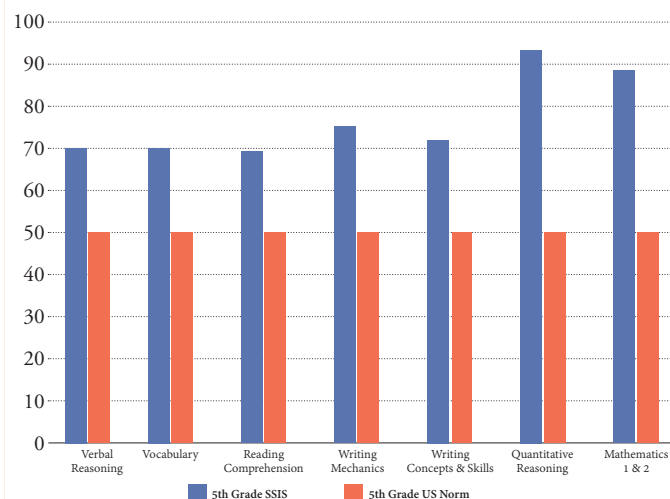
CTP 2018 Median Percentile Rank Comparison, SSIS Students & United States Norm: **CLASS OF 2027 (3rd GRADE)**



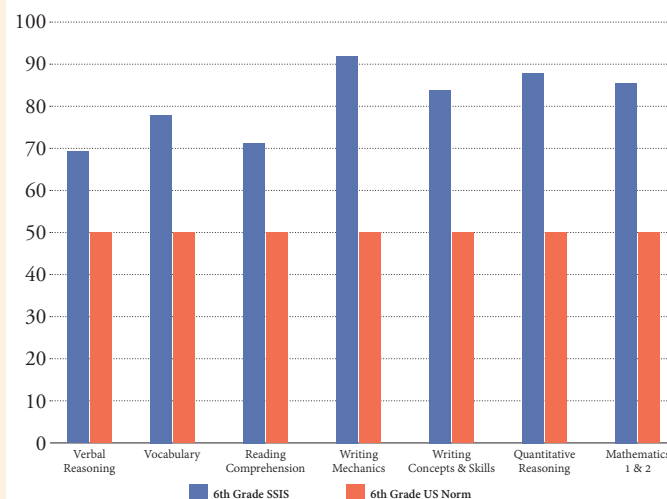
National Percentile Rank Comparison, SSIS Students & United States Norm: **CLASS OF 2026 (4th GRADE)**



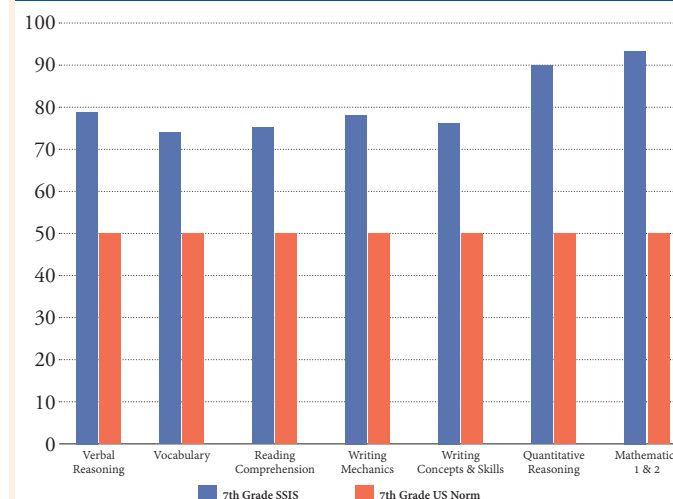
National Percentile Rank Comparison, SSIS Students & United States Norm: **CLASS OF 2025 (5th GRADE)**



National Percentile Rank Comparison, SSIS Students & United States Norm: **CLASS OF 2024 (6th GRADE)**



CTP 2018 Median Percentile Rank Comparison, SSIS English Proficient Student & United States Norm: **7th GRADE**





# WHAT DEMONSTRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?

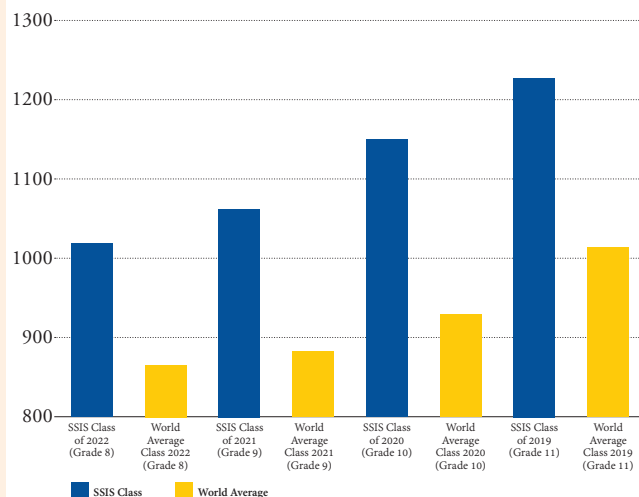


## PSAT

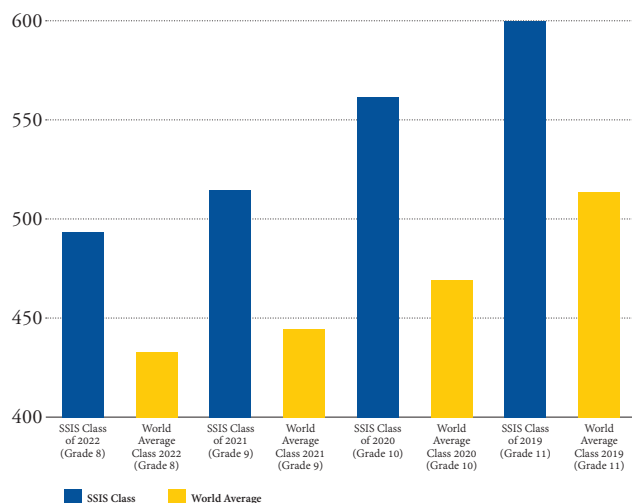
SSIS expanded the use of the PSAT into grades 8 and 9 for the 2017-2018 school year. All of the PSAT tests are scored along the same scale, which is also the same as the SAT. Using the same scale allows for demonstration of growth across years.

SSIS students consistently performed above the world average and consistently increased each year.

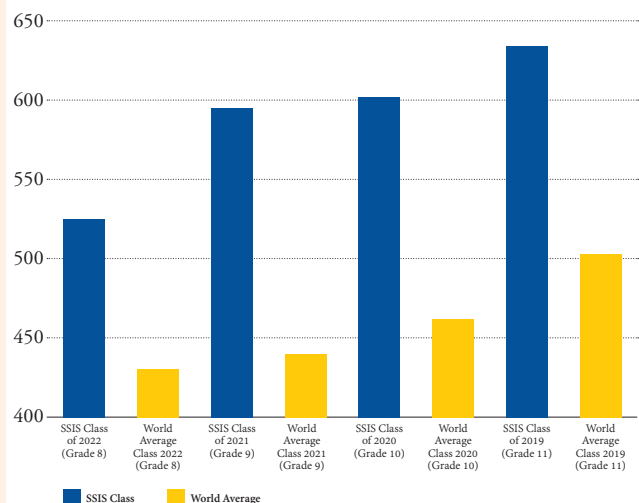
PSAT 2017-2018, SSIS and World Average, Classes of 2019 - 2022:  
**TOTAL SCORE**



PSAT 2017-2018, SSIS and World Average, Classes of 2019 - 2022:  
**EVIDENCE-BASED READING AND WRITING**



PSAT 2017-2018, SSIS and World Average, Classes of 2019 - 2022:  
**MATHEMATICS**



## SAT

SSIS students tend to take the SAT during their junior and senior years. The number of times the SAT is taken is up to the individual. SSIS reports overall average of best score per student. For the 2018 graduates the average score for Evidence-based Reading and Writing was 640 and for Mathematics was 700. Comparative world averages for 2018 are were 537 for ERW and 531 for Mathematics. SSIS students exceeded both averages by over 100 points each.

## SAT SUBJECT EXAM RESULTS



Chemistry  
**740**



Physics  
**800**



Math  
**800**

## SAT EXAM RESULTS



Evidence-based Reading  
and Writing Mean  
**640**



Math Mean  
**700**



# WHAT DEMONSTRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?



## AP

The Advanced Placement (AP) program offers standardized courses to high school students, which are generally recognized as being the equivalent to undergraduate courses in college. An exam score of 3 or higher is considered a passing mark. Many competitive universities will grant college credit to students who score a 4 or 5 on their exams.

### AP MAY 2018 RESULTS

SCHOOL STATISTICS	91% Scored 3 or better	8 AP Scholars with Honors
	101 Students registered	17 AP Scholars with Distinction
	198 Exams taken	12 AP Scholars

AP Score	Calculus AB	Calculus BC	Micro-economics	Macro-economics	English Language Composition	English Literature And Composition	US History	World History	Studio Art: 2D Design Portfolio	Psychology	Biology	TOTAL
5	6	18	9	14	7	1	4	4	2	6	2	73
4	2	2	8	11	1	2	12	9	2	6	7	62
3	4	1	5	2	7	3	5	12	1	2	4	46
2	2		3	2	1	2	2	1		1		14
1	1						2					3
Total Exams	15	21	25	29	16	8	13	26	5	15	13	198





# WHAT DEMONSTRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?



## IB

The IB diploma is seen as a well-rounded, rigorous, and comprehensive course of study for the final two years of high school. Students are required to take a total of 6 subjects, 3 at the Standard Level and 3 at the Higher Level, complete Creativity, Activity and Services (CAS) activities, complete a Theory of Knowledge class and write an original 4000-word Extended Essay. Each subject has an external exam, which is graded on a scale of 1-7. To be awarded the diploma students must earn 24 points on the exams and complete all other requirements.

SUBJECT	Avg. grade (SSIS)		Avg. grade (World)		Highest grade (SSIS)		SUBJECT	Avg. grade (SSIS)		Avg. grade (World)		Highest grade (SSIS)	
	SL	HL	SL	HL	SL	HL		SL	HL	SL	HL	SL	HL
English A Lit.	4.83	4.93	5.02	4.71	6.00	6.00	Geography	N/A	5.81	N/A	5.21	N/A	7.00
English A Lang & Lit.	5.06	5.23	5.09	4.98	6.00	7.00	History	5.20	4.90	4.54	5.02	6.00	6.00
Korean A Lang & Lit.	6.50	7.00	5.92	6.08	7.00	7.00	Biology	5.17	5.30	4.22	4.34	7.00	6.00
Env. Sys. & Soc.	4.67	N/A	4.15	N/A	6.00	N/A	Chemistry	4.71	5.13	3.98	4.46	7.00	7.00
Mandarin ab initio	6.33	N/A	5.48	N/A	7.00	N/A	Physics	4.50	5.36	4.05	4.64	6.00	7.00
Mandarin B	6.25	6.00	5.92	6.30	7.00	6.00	Math Studies	5.06	N/A	4.21	N/A	7.00	N/A
Spanish ab initio	5.16	N/A	4.95	N/A	6.00	N/A	Math	5.24	5.80	4.26	4.75	7.00	7.00
Spanish B	6.25	5.00	5.07	5.38	7.00	5.00	Music	N/A	4.50	N/A	4.61	N/A	5.00
Economics	6.40	5.58	4.69	5.11	7.00	7.00	Visual Arts, Option A	6.00	5.71	3.95	4.48	7.00	7.00
Computer SC. SL	4.50	N/A	3.78	N/A	5.00	N/A	Theatre	5.00	5.80	4.28	4.88	5.00	6.00

### IBDP MAY 2018 RESULTS

SCHOOL STATISTICS	44 Diploma candidates registered in the session	34 Average points obtained by candidates
	442 Subject entries in the session	44 Highest diploma points awarded to a candidate
	44 Candidates who passed the diploma	5.46 Full diploma average exam score





# WHERE TO NEXT?

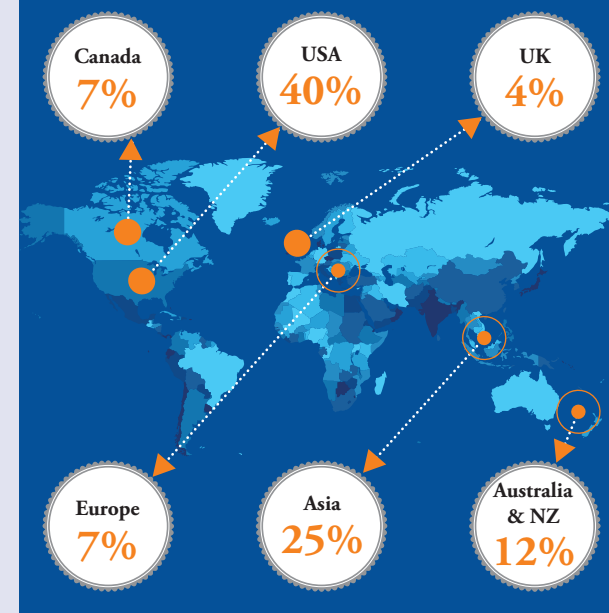


## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION CLASSES OF 2014-2018

<b>USA</b> Academy of Art University American University Babson College Baylor University* Boston University* Boston College Brandeis University* Bryn Mawr College California College of the Arts, San Francisco California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo** Carnegie Mellon University** Case Western Reserve University CSU-Northridge Colgate University College of William and Mary Columbia College Chicago Cornell University Depaul University Drexel University The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art* Fashion Institute of Technology* The George Washington University* Georgia Institute of Technology* Indiana University- Bloomington Ithaca College James Madison University Johns Hopkins University* Lesley University Loyola Marymount University Loyola University Chicago* Michigan State University Menlo College Mount Holyoke College New York University* Northeastern University* Northwestern University* Occidental College Pace University* Pepperdine University* Pennsylvania State University Pratt Institute* Purdue University Pomona College Rochester Institute of Technology	Rutgers University Savannah College of Art and Design Sacramento City College San Antonio College Santa Clara University School of the Art Institute of Chicago School of Visual Arts* St. John's University Sonoma State University Swarthmore College Smith College* The New School The College of New Jersey The College of Wooster Temple University Texas Christian University Texas Tech University* Trinity University Tufts University* University at Buffalo, the State University of New York University of Pennsylvania* University of La Verne University of Massachusetts, Amherst* University of Arkansas University of California, Berkeley* University of California, Davis* University of California, Irvine* University of California, Los Angeles* University of California, Riverside University of California, San Diego* University of California, Santa Cruz* University of Chicago University of Cincinnati University of Georgia University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign* University of Michigan University of Oregon University of San Francisco* University of South Carolina University of Southern California University of Texas, Austin University of Washington* University of Wisconsin, Madison* Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Washington and Lee University	Washington State University* Wentworth Institute of Technology West Texas A&M University Williams College  <b>AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND</b> International College of Hotel Management Monash University* The University of Queensland The University of Melbourne University of Sydney* UNSW Australia University of Otago  <b>CANADA</b> Brock University Humber College Simon Fraser University* Emily Carr University of Art + Design McGill University* University of Alberta University of British Columbia* University of Calgary University of Guelph University of Toronto* University of Waterloo*  * Multiple students attending  <b>ASIA</b> Ateneo de Manila University Chulalongkorn University The Chinese University of Hong Kong Enderun Colleges* The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology* De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde University of Hong Kong* University of Santo Tomas Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology Keio University Mita Korea University*	National Chang Hua University of Education National Taiwan Normal University National University of Singapore* Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts - NAFA* Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology- RMIT Vietnam* Seoul National University* Sogang University Sophia University* Sungkyunkwan University* University of Hong Kong Universitas Indonesia University of the Philippines Yonsei University*  <b>UK</b> Falmouth College of the Arts Royal Holloway, University of London* The University of Manchester University of East Anglia* University of Edinburgh* University of Reading University of Exeter University College London King's College London  <b>EUROPE</b> Amsterdam University College Erasmus University College Ecole Hoteliere - Hotel Management School Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne International Fachhochschule-Bonn John Cabot University Les Roches Marbella International School of Hotel Management Leiden University College Paris College of Arts Technische Universiteit Delft University College Roosevelt University Debrecen Medical and Health Science Center Universiteit Leiden* Universiteit Utrecht Universiteit Van Amsterdam*
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## MATRICULATION CLASS OF 2018





# WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?



## ATHLETICS

ES

Season  
1

Total Team	8
Total Athletes	72
Total Sports	2
Participation	54%

MS

Season  
1

Total Team	8
Total Athletes	109
Total Sports	3
Participation	53%

HS

Season  
1

Total Team	12
Total Athletes	127
Total Sports	3
Participation	37%



Season  
2

Total Team	6
Total Athletes	75
Total Sports	3
Participation	52%



Season  
2

Total Team	8
Total Athletes	79
Total Sports	3
Participation	39%



Season  
2

Total Team	11
Total Athletes	87
Total Sports	4
Participation	25%



Season  
3

Total Team	5
Total Athletes	60
Total Sports	1
Participation	42%



Season  
3

Total Team	9
Total Athletes	83
Total Sports	2
Participation	41%



Season  
3

Total Team	5
Total Athletes	86
Total Sports	1
Participation	16%

2017-2018 was an exciting time for Dragon Athletics. We placed in the top two places in over 90% of the tournaments we entered and won more than 50%. This combined with our reputation for strong athletics, sportsmanship and amazing facilities pushed SSIS to the top, over other schools in HCMC, in our bid to join a new sports and activities conference. The South East Asian Sports and Activities Conference (SEASAC) welcomed SSIS at the end of the school year. This will mean more sports, more opportunities and a higher level of competition for our students not just on the court or field but also in Model United Nations (MUN) and the Arts.

### SSIS HS TEAMS

2017 - 2018		Over Last 6 Years	
Champs	Finalists	Champs	Finalists
7/12	11/12	25/60	49/60
58%	92%	41%	82%



# WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

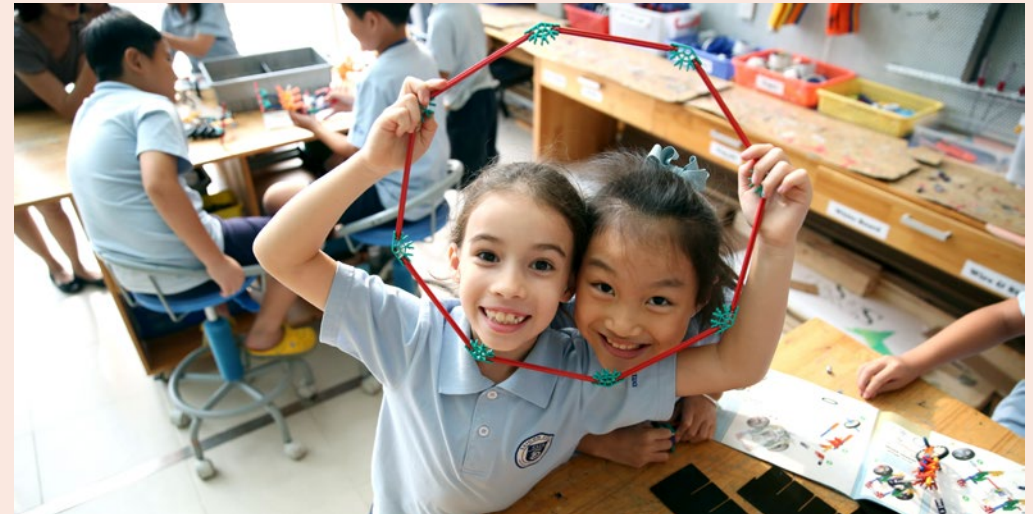


## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Due to parent request the Early Childhood (EC) after-school-activities program was officially launched this year and it proved to be both successful and extremely popular. More than 60% of EC students signed up.

Students in all grade levels were able to participate in a variety of activities ranging from cooking class to Vex robotics. These classes allow students to socialize, take risks and learn new skills while developing their Sense of Self and Respect for All.

In the high school many of the after-school-activities are service clubs which create possibilities for our students to reach beyond our classrooms and have an impact in our community. We have students building houses, teaching English and raising environmental awareness.





ASA's Offered 133  
Av. Participation Rate 37%





ASA's Offered 35  
Av. Participation Rate 25%





ASA's Offered 51  
Av. Participation Rate 50%





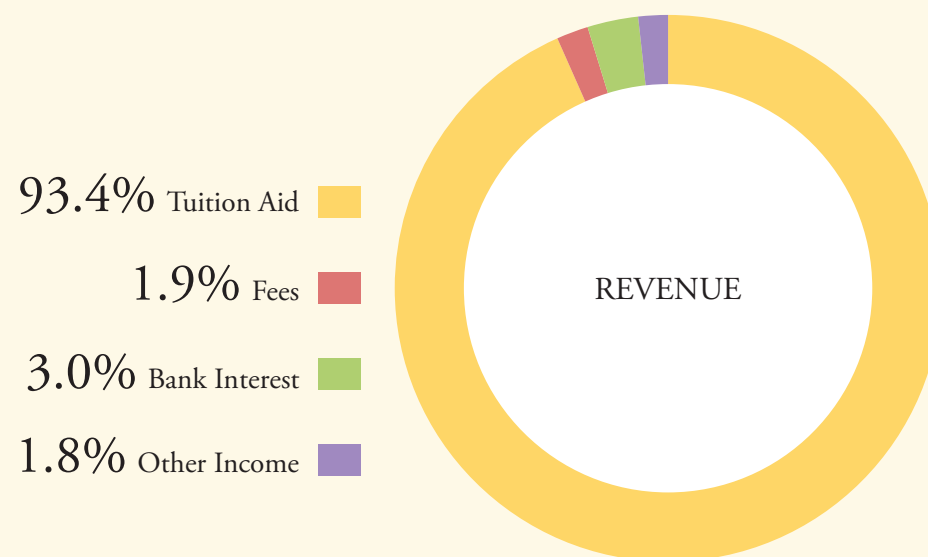
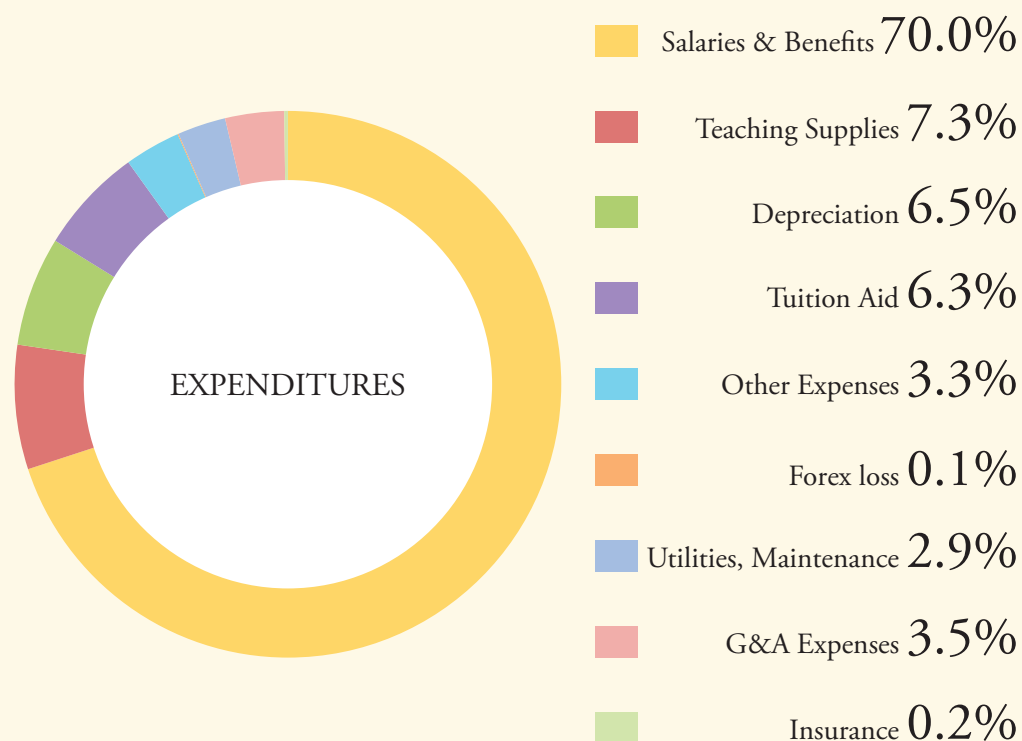
# HOW DO WE INVEST ?



## SCHOOL FINANCES

As a proprietary, not-for-profit school, SSIS holds a unique place in the market. Our community members know that all of the revenue generated has an impact on their child's educational experience. This allows us to attract and retain the best teachers, to expand our resources and to continually make improvements to our campus facilities. The school's greatest source of revenue comes from tuition and fees.

We will continue the renovation and improvement in facilities over the coming years as part of our programming needs and strategic plan.





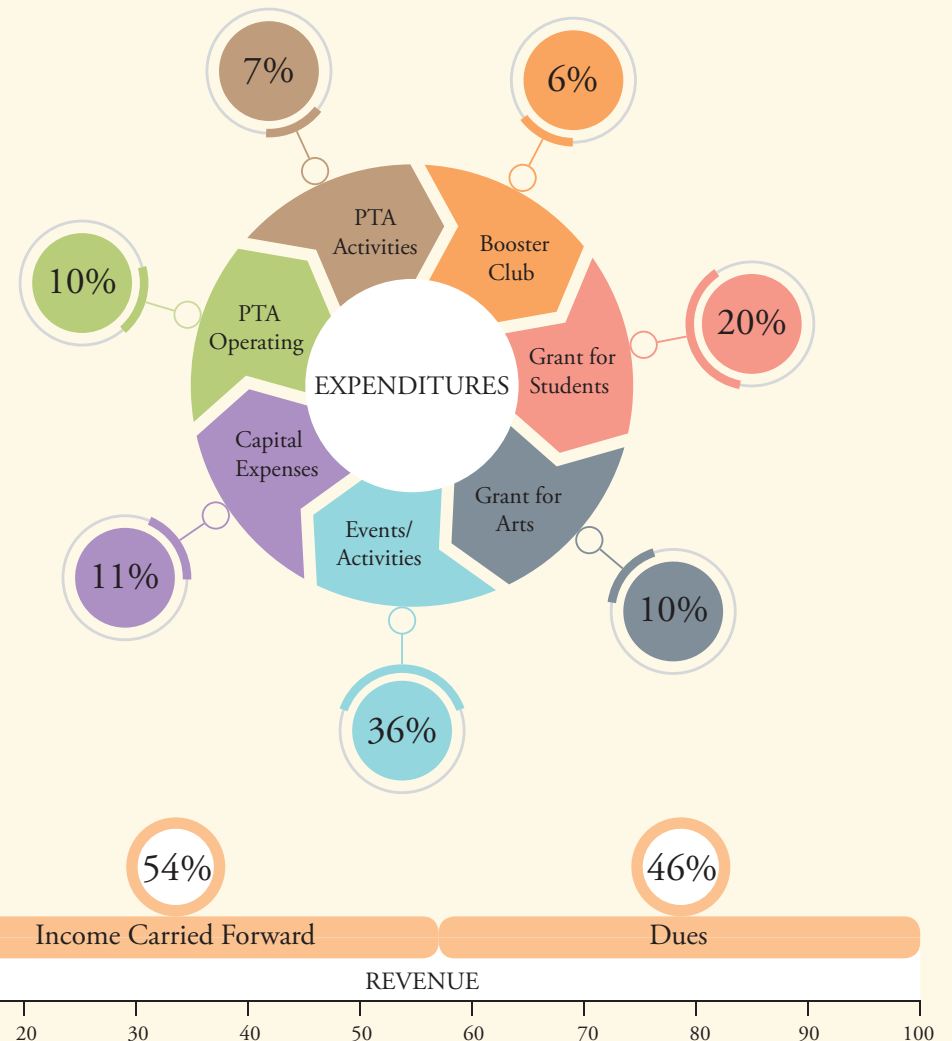
# HOW ARE PARENTS INVOLVED?



## PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTA started the 2017-2018 school year out with a variety of new beginnings. They opened the first ever and absolutely beautifully welcoming PTA office on campus, they had a brand new structure and board. With the addition of Divisional Representatives, they were able to support programs such as HS Oscars, MS Dance Celebration, Prom and ES Sports Day. At the same time all of the activities such as Family Fun Day, Halloween and clubs like Cooking Club, Yoga, Arts & Craft and Book Club which parents have come to love are still happening. The brand new suggestion box outside of the PTA office ensures that all voices are heard and all communities are represented.

The first ever Booster Club began in the fall and throughout the year they were able to support the student athletes. Using funds raised through hotdog sales, bake sales and heart-o-grams the Booster Club purchased noise makers and snacks for traveling teams. They have become a mainstay at all Dragon hosted tournaments.





# WHAT'S NEW?



PTA ROOM



SCHOOL STORE



TOUCH TIMING SYSTEM



SPRINKLER SYSTEM



COFFEE SHOP



ENTRANCE