



(L to R): Mr. Tang; Mary Stuart Battle, Director of International Admissions; Alida Tang; her mother, Ms. Zhang; Esther Johnson, International Student Coordinator



Alida Tang '20 | Beijing, China

The Tang family visited Virginia Episcopal School for Lunar New Year to spend time with their daughter, Alida. Being on campus reaffirmed their decision that VES was the very best choice among the many strong boarding schools to which Alida was admitted. They are so pleased with their daughter's academic development, personal growth and engagement in the school community during her year-and-a-half at VES. Read their comments about what stands out to them about VES.

Worlds apart, but right at home at Virginia Episcopal School

The choice to send a child to boarding school can be a tough one—especially when that choice will take him or her thousands of miles from home. What will your high schooler's life be like away from home? What will they learn? Who will care for them? Will they find their place within the school community? With questions like these, how do you decide on the best school?

The Tang family of Beijing, China, recently visited their daughter Alida '20 at VES for the Lunar New Year. While on campus, they shared how happy Alida and they are with VES, how they decided that Virginia Episcopal School was the right fit, and how Alida's experience affirms that decision each day.

When the Tang family began the process of evaluating boarding school programs, they looked at 11 schools across the U.S., but it soon became clear that VES was the right home for Alida.

Businessman Tang Hangchu and Zhang Xueyan, a high school-level math teacher, shared these distinctive reasons VES stands out:

Guiding Students to Their Full Potential.

"We like the focus VES provides on balance—balance across academics, sports, Student Life and time for community," said Mr. Tang.

On Academics. Ms. Zhang, based on her years of teaching experience, pointed out that "at VES, students are learning at a much higher level than the top level of instruction in China. I see Alida learning theory and logic in her Calculus class and then understanding how to apply this to real-life scenarios. This approach to learning has helped Alida understand her subjects more deeply. She is excited to put even more effort into mathematics because she can see its value."



Alida and classmates work on a science project together.



Artwork by Alida

Safety and security. “This is very important to us. We want to know that the school will take great care of our child,” emphasized Mr. Tang. “We are very impressed with VES’s approach. From the first time Alida landed at Dulles airport with a faculty member to greet her to her experiences on campus and off, VES has been right there, providing a highly personal touch.”

Creating Community. Through VES’s special International Host Family program provided for all new international students, “Alida was immediately connected with a local VES family, so she had a friend right away,” noted Mr. Tang. With these connections, students enjoy a feeling of familiarity and friendship upon joining the school community. The families and students enjoy countless activities—from dinners out to fun get-togethers in family homes. “Different from other schools we saw, VES is like a family. We get a very warm feeling. As we compared schools, we were more confident that Alida would have a good experience at VES.”

Learning for Life. “VES offers a Student Life curriculum that emphasizes health and well-being—building a foundation of lifelong habits for success. Ms. Zhang noted, “VES helps children make smart choices to live a healthy lifestyle. The school provides high-quality, farm-to-table foods. And Alida talks to us about how she has learned better sleeping habits that will have a positive impact for her lifetime. VES gives the students the right knowledge now so that, when they fly off on their own, they are prepared to be successful in that journey.”

Connections for a Lifetime. “VES focuses on the value of guanxi,” observed Mr. Tang. The VES alumni network is particularly strong—spanning generations and locations around the world. Many graduates point to the importance of those connections in finding their jobs and settling in new communities. This will be a great benefit to Alida as she goes out into the world.”

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We invite you to learn more about Virginia Episcopal School.

Visit ves.org or call Mary Stuart Battle, Director of International Admissions, at 434.385.3601.