



Nanjing International School
An **Inclusive Learning Community**

Back-to-School Guide
School Year 2020-2021

Preparing for learning...

- ❖ At Nanjing International School we are working hard to ensure a safe and smooth start to next academic year. Being in the fortunate position of finishing this school year with all our grade levels back on campus and reflecting upon our experiences of the past six months, we are well-positioned as we plan for August and beyond.
- ❖ The document is designed to give our community an overview of our planning for the launch of School Year 2020-21, including continuity of learning, how we might adapt to different scenarios, and a chance to address frequently asked questions. We hope this is both helpful and reassuring as we work to craft the best possible plan for our students, families and entire learning community.



Learning Continues...

Whether on-campus or in extraordinary circumstances in which Distance Learning is required, our goal of academic continuity remains the same. Our faculty can provide quality teaching and learning that allows students to meet expected outcomes in any learning environment. While we expect to begin next academic year on-campus, we are prepared to shift into our updated Distance Learning Plan, if required.

Distance Learning, like all learning at NIS,...

- ...is rooted in our Mission and Strategy.
- ...is based upon our existing curriculum.
- ...leverages existing blended learning platforms.
- ...prioritizes relationships and communication.
- ...remains adaptive to our situation and context.



Distance Learning at NIS

We have learned a lot over the past several months regarding learning online. Feedback, reflection, and preparation have helped us to become even better positioned to support continuity of learning through Distance Learning.



Age-appropriate blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning



Focus on connections and classroom communities



Prioritize communication and community support

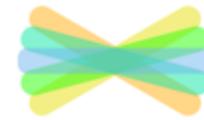


Remain dedicated to child protection & peer-to-peer safeguarding

NIS Distance Learning Tools



Microsoft Teams
Our dedicated tool for face-to-face learning from a distance for all grade levels



SeeSaw
Our main asynchronous learning tool in Primary grades



Managebac
Our school learning management system



Veracross
Our student information and management system



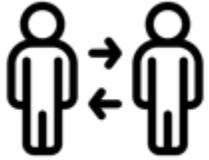
Office 365
Our complete digital productivity suite and collaborative platform



MyNIS
Our enhanced school website helps support our Distance Learning plan

Scenario One: On Campus Learning

In this scenario, all NIS students have access to campus from the first day of school, including those currently outside of Mainland China.



All required and necessary safety measures remain in place



After-school activities restart based on safety and advice

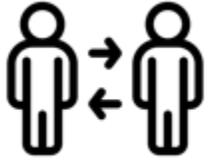


No distance learning plan is required



Scenario Two: Blended Learning

In this scenario, most NIS students have access to campus from the first day of school. However, students outside of Mainland China do not.



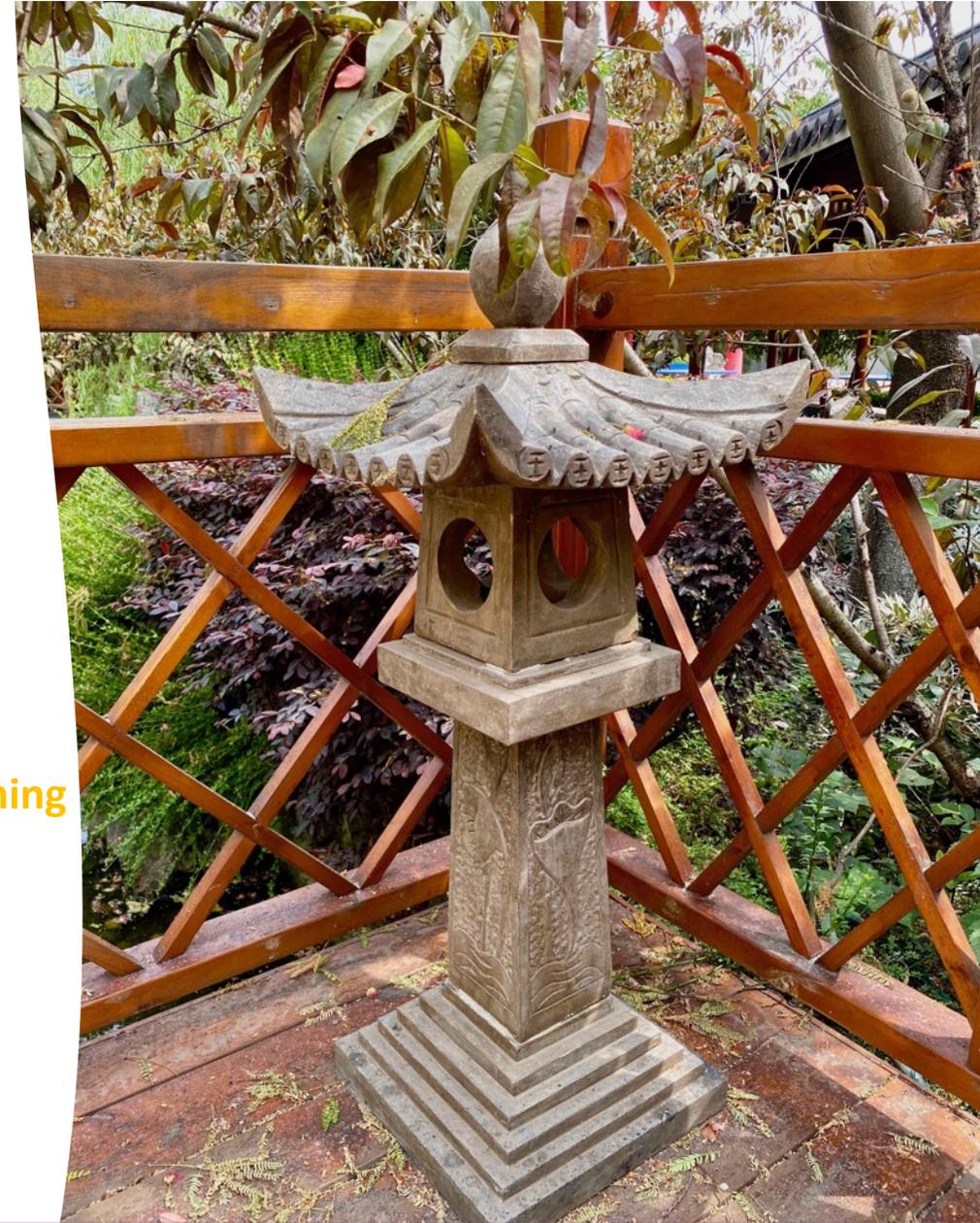
All required and necessary safety measures remain in place



Students unable to return to campus engage in Distance Learning



Distance Learning continues through arrival & delayed entry



Scenario Three: Distance Learning

In this scenario, students are not able to access campus in August as planned due to changes in official regulations.



All students engage in the NIS Distance Learning Plan



Distance Learning begins from August 14th



NIS awaits permission to safely reopen campus for students



2020-2021 NIS School Calendar

❖ We are planning for an August 12th on-campus start.



❖ If this is delayed for any reason, we will switch immediately to the NIS Distance Learning Plan.



❖ Five additional instructional days have been added to SY20-21 by adjusting our Professional Learning Days.



❖ Our full schedule of after-school, athletic, arts, and other co-curricular activities is planned and will be adjusted, as necessary.



❖ Discover China trips have been shifted to the Spring of Semester Two.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Will school start on time?

School will begin on August 12th for G6 and new students. We expect to begin SY20-21 as we ended SY19-20 with the vast majority of students on campus. If not, we will switch to the NIS Distance Learning Plan. In either event, August 13th will be the first day of school for all students.

2. How do I know campus is safe for students in August?

Student safety and well-being is our top priority. Because we have already experienced a full campus re-opening, NIS has a deep understanding of health and safety requirements and a strong track record of consistently meeting and exceeding these important expectations. Our systems and procedures are robust, and we stand ready to facilitate the safe and smooth start to the school year at NIS.

3. What are your recommendations regarding Summer travel for families?

We are advising staff and parents to stay in China during the school vacation. Rules and regulations around travel within China change regularly. We expect some restrictions on travel within China. International arrivals will most likely still undergo a government-mandated quarantine upon arrival.

4. What happens if my family is not able to travel to China for the start of school?

All students in this position will be supported by the NIS Distance Learning Plan until such time as they are able to return to on-campus learning.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

5. Can my child remain enrolled at NIS if they do not participate in Distance Learning?

Our commitment to continuity of learning means that all students enrolled at NIS have access to learning. Choosing to temporarily opt out of Distance Learning will not impact enrolment status. You may opt into Distance Learning at any time you choose.

6. When will the co-curricular programme restart at NIS?

We hope to restart this important part of our programme in August, pending approval from the relevant authorities. As always, we will remain flexible and focus on student safety.

7. I'm overseas waiting to travel to Nanjing. When should I pay SY20-21 school fees?

Access to learning at NIS is only open to students who have paid and are enrolled.

8. Can Early Years students take full advantage of distance learning?

We understand that distance learning is not always ideal for our youngest learners. That said we will work directly with each family to best support their EY child's needs if Distance Learning is necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

9. Are there special refunds offered for SY 20-21?

NIS will follow clearly articulated refund policies as normal. As we offer continuity of learning the fees are the same for students learning on campus or at a distance. Likewise the refund policies remain the same. These are part of the application process and available on our website.

11. Will teachers who are still overseas be on campus to start the new school year?

We only have 5 returning teachers overseas. As soon as there are flights available, they will come back to Nanjing.

10. Will new teachers who are recruited for August 2020 be on campus to start the school year?

We have 11 new teachers, 10 of whom are outside China waiting for their visas, and then for the borders to re-open. As soon as there are flights available, they will come to Nanjing.

12. How will NIS begin the school year without all teachers on campus?

There is a quite extraordinary level of commitment and flexibility amongst our teaching faculty. We will begin with a schedule based on the needs of students. Most members of the leadership team will be teaching until their new colleagues arrive.



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Please visit [Learning Continuity](#) on the NIS Website for more information

Please contact [Mr. Kasson Bratton](#), Deputy Director-Learning with questions regarding the start of School Year 20-21.

Nanjing International School would like to thank the American Embassy School-Delhi for sharing their ideas and exemplars.