

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



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### 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Since 1988, SIS has provided expatriate students in Shenzhen with the highest standard of educational experiences. Our staff and students come from more than 40 nations around the world.

Students at SIS have access to the finest learning schools can offer. Our mission is to provide students with a rigorous education and do so in a caring and nurturing community. We strive to inspire them to become principled, innovative contributors in an ever-changing and transforming world.

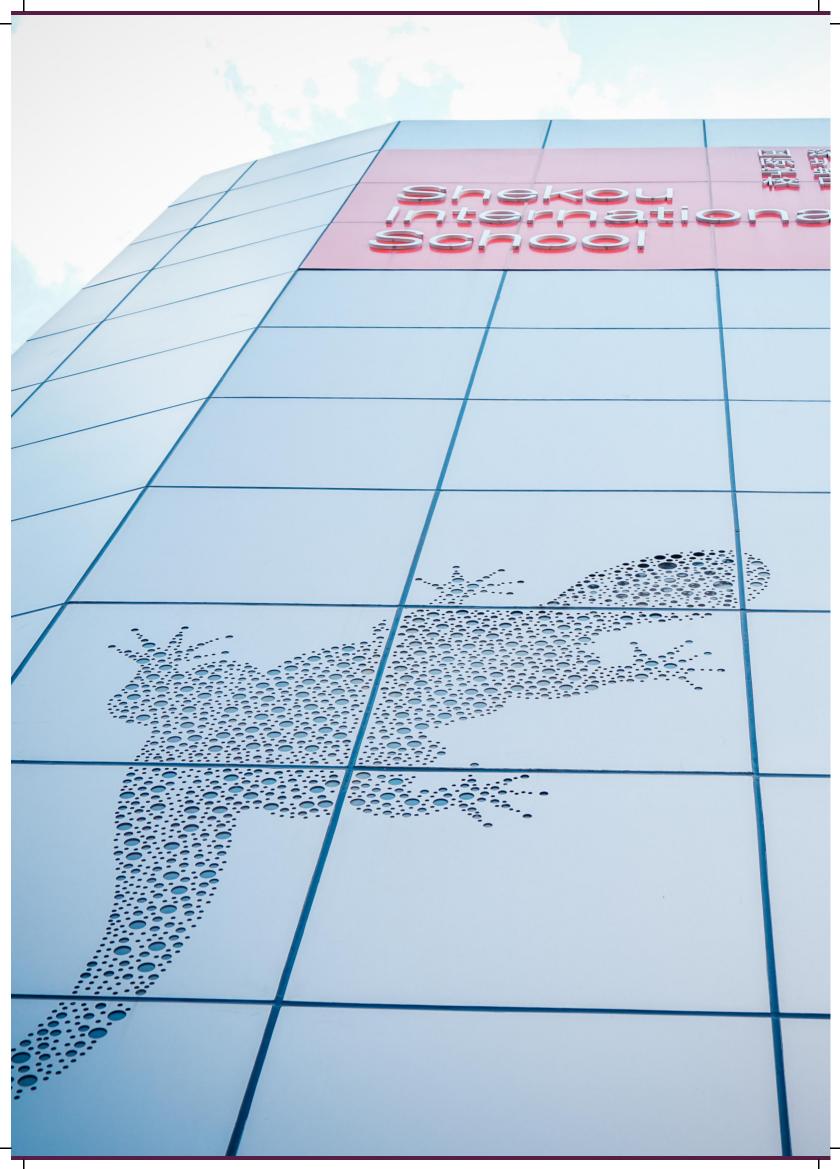
Student-centered approaches are at the heart of how our teachers work with each student - from early childhood to graduation. Our teachers maintain academic rigor while fostering hands-on learning and individual exploration. Our standards-based curriculum is developed from the best and most current of national and international curricula, making it relevant and challenging for our students.

Our technology initiatives give all students full access to the best educational technology in all grades. The students gain skills to take full advantage of the learning opportunities of the 21st century. Beyond the classroom, SIS students have access to a variety extra-curricular activities. Their participation in these contributes significantly to their physical and social development as they grow and mature.

This year has been an incredibly unusual and challenging experience for our community. Through the pandemic, our staff, students, and their families have persevered and grown. We remain a strong community, and the following report outlines the achievements of this unique year.

Sincerely,

Greg Smith Head of School



# MISSION

Shekou International School provides a rigorous education in a caring community and inspires our students to become principled, innovative contributors in a transforming world.

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

The purpose of education is to prepare people to play a full and active role as global citizens throughout their lives. Shekou International School was founded to serve the educational needs of expatriates residing in Shenzhen.

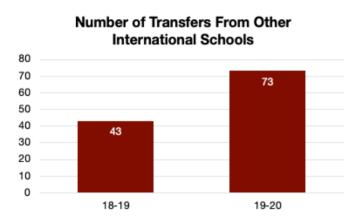
#### WE BELIEVE THAT...

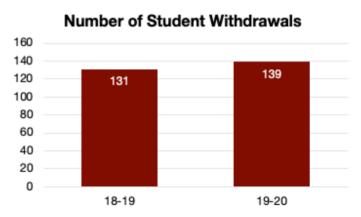
- A foundation in knowledge and skills is essential for continual learning, personal development
- and sound decision-making.
- Integrity, humility, and respect are fundamental to successful relationships.
- Learning to set goals and priorities is essential to the development of perseverance, critical thinking and confidence in students as well as staff.
- Successful learning is fostered by an active, supportive partnership and consistent expectations within the child's school and home learning environments.
- Active involvement in service learning and recognition of cultural diversity is critical in developing responsible, compassionate youth who can adjust to life in an ever-changing world.
- Technology is a conduit through which students learn, create, collaborate and share.

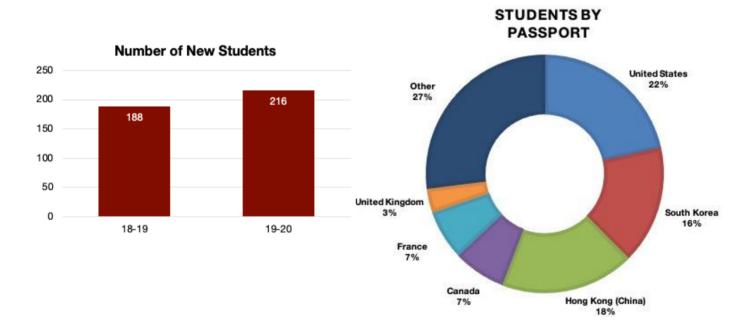


### **ADMISSIONS**

The 2019-2020 school year started with our highest enrollment in the school's history, with over 1000 students. This year also proved to be one of our most substantial student withdrawals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to social distancing and government regulations, our Admissions team stepped up to ensure that prospective families could still experience what a great school SIS is by shifting to online virtual tours. From the first point of contact to the first day of school, our Admissions team answer questions and guide our international families through the enrollment and transition process at SIS.







"What an interesting admissions season! From doing online Open Days to meeting families virtually, COVID-19 has forced us to look at new ways of meeting the needs of potential families. While nothing can compare with meeting a family in person and showing our vibrant, caring community, I am thrilled that I have had a chance to interview almost all of our new students for the 20-21 school year. I look forward to meeting them in person at our new family orientation."

Liz Jheeta - Director Of Admissions



# **FACULTY & STAFF**

At SIS, we take pride in our international teaching community. SIS employs professionals from across the globe, with the two major countries being USA (59) and Canada (22). Our commitment to international diversity sees our school with employees of 17 nationalities.

We have remarkable and caring educators who inspire our students to become independent, life long learners. Our 100%-licensed teaching community regularly collaborates to enhance each student's experiences within and beyond the classroom.

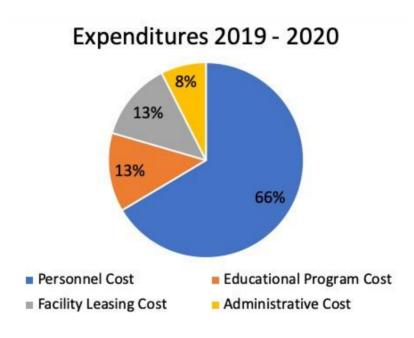
We encourage and invest in each of our educator's talents by providing professional learning opportunities throughout the year. Our 220 teachers and 62 teaching assistants are masters of their craft and regularly present at conferences and school-based seminars. We value our educators and recognize they are key to making SIS one of the best international schools in the world.



### FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

SIS is managed by International School Services (ISS), a not for profit organization based in Princeton, New Jersey in the United States. We undertake annual audits that examine our financial processes against International Accounting Standards and comply with Chinese Law. Our record in these audits is strong, and this year has been no exception with the teams from PKF and Ping Fu accounting and audit firms reviewing and approving our accounts.

Each year the school's income, which is derived from tuition payments is expended on providing a high-quality program while carefully managing costs. Ensuring the best possible program requires SIS to compete globally for experienced and qualified staff, and the largest expense is on personnel. The graph below depicts the allocation of funds within the school.





### ISS GOVERNANCE

As a not for profit organization, International Schools Services (ISS) works with more than 500 international schools and thousands of educators each year across its suite of services, creating the largest global footprint in international education support.

Through ISS management of Shekou International School, the ethos of not for profit service flows through the governance structures. The governing body of the school is a Board of Directors that meets throughout the year both in Shenzhen and the USA.

A priority of ISS has been to guide policy development as the context in China continues to evolve.

This year the Board originally was pleased to see the continued growth in enrollment. The previous years decision to expand student support services saw added learning support and counselor provision across the school. The continued growth in student applications and the benefits derived from expanding the numbers of students in secondary programs led the Board to approve the potential expansion of grades 6, 7, and 9 with one additional class per grade.

The Board responded to the emergency and extended closure of the school with approval for credit to following year tuition, and extension of tuition refund policy to support the families affected by the closure.

The Board's most significant decision may have been the approval for taking on the long-term lease of a new campus for SIS secondary. The campus, which is located approximately one kilometer from the Jingshan campus, is named Net Valley. The footprint of the new campus will provide double the usable space of the current Bayside campus. The decision is designed to allow for the continued growth of the secondary program and create a more sustainable SIS.

### **SIS Board Members**



Liz Duffy ISS President



Dick Moore
ISS Vice President



Greg Smith

HOS Shekou International
ISS Asia Pacific Vice President,



Kris Evins
ISS Chief Financial Officer



Brent Wang
ISS Asia Pacific,
Director of Finance and Business



Harish Kanabar Shekou International School Primary Primary Principal



# PRIMARY SCHOOL

"The 2019-20 academic year presented significant challenges to all of us. However, as an established school, we tackled adversity as a community of reflective professionals ensuring that we remained responsive and agile to the ever-changing landscape as well as the individual needs of our students. Our priority remained our learners, and our responsibility to create the best learning opportunities with could whilst maintaining a sense of balance for our students. As the educators, we understand the need to make continuous adjustments to ensure that we protected student well-being, maintained connections and showed the strength of what it means to be a part of the SIS community."

Harish Kanabar, Primary Principal

The Primary school has fostered the intellectual, social and emotional, and physical well-being of each child through the delivery of a curriculum based on the American Common Core and other global standards within the Primary Years Programme (PYP) framework. Within this inquiry-led environment, students were challenged to think deeply and take responsibility for their learning as they explored the world around them.

Our teaching staff focused on each student's needs, abilities, and learning style. Differentiation was used to allow each child to reach their potential. All Primary students attended specialist classes within the day, including visual arts, music, world languages and physical and social personal education.

At SIS, we care for each child's success beyond academics. Teachers worked with each student to set goals to pursue their personal, social, and intellectual development.





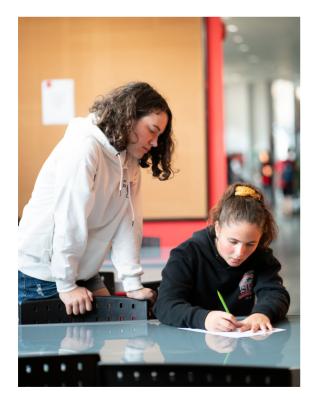




# SECONDARY SCHOOL

Our program provides each student with a rich and challenging academic program in math, science, humanities, English language arts, and Mandarin or French. At the same time, students attend a variety of classes to develop their artistic skills such as music and art, and physical education. Using the American Common Core standards, in addition to the best global practices, our curriculum and programs develop students' knowledge, self-awareness, and self-confidence.

Our advisory program fosters relationships and a sense of community between students and teachers. In Grades 11 and 12, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) provides a rigorous curriculum that prepares students for entry into leading universities around the world.





# CLASS of 2020 FUTURE PLANS

Citizenship & Civic Engagement

Communications

**Graphic Design** 

Military Service

Psychology & Cognitive Sciences

Gap Year

**Biological Studies or Medicine** 

Computer Science

Accounting & Finance

**International Relations** 

Illustration or FAV (Film, Animation, Video)

**Business Studies** 

Biology

Nursing - Children's

**Economics and Finance** 

**Business Administration** 

## CLASS OF 2020 OFFERS

#### **USA**

**Boston University** 

**Endicott College** 

**Indiana University Bloomington** 

Loyola Marymount University

Missouri State University

**New York University** 

Northeastern University

Oklahoma State University

**Purdue University** 

Rhode Island School of Design

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Stony Brook University

Syracuse University

The New School

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University of Michigan

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

University of Southern California

#### Canada

University of British Columbia

University of Toronto

#### **Hong Kong**

Hong Kong University of Science and

Technology

The University of Hong Kong

#### **Korea**

Seoul National University

#### **Netherlands**

**Erasmus University** 

Rotterdam

University of Amsterdam

**VU University Amsterdam** 

#### <u>SIngapore</u>

Yale - NUS

#### <u>UK</u>

City University London

King's College London

**Newcastle University** 

University of East Anglia

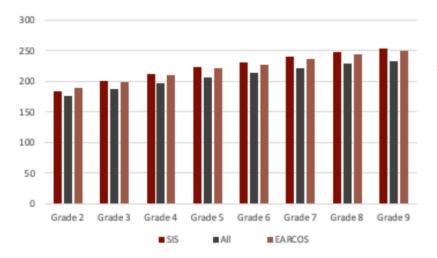
University of Manchester

University of Warwick

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) tests are a suite of internationally recognized assessments used by the school to benchmark progress of our students from Grades 2 to 9. Our results this year show strong performance in Mathematics, Reading and Language, particularly when compared to international schools (All) and East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS).

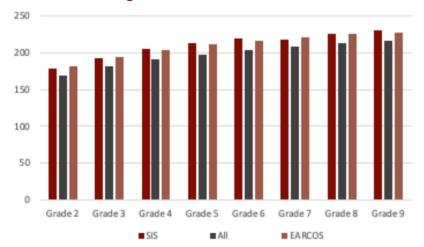
#### MAP Math- Fall 2020



The MAP Math test assesses student ability in five major strands:

- · Number and Operations
- Measurement
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Data Analysis and Probability

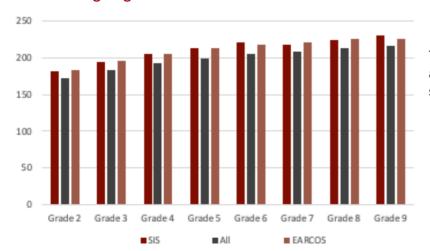
#### MAP Reading - Fall 2020



The MAP Reading test assesses student ability in three major strands:

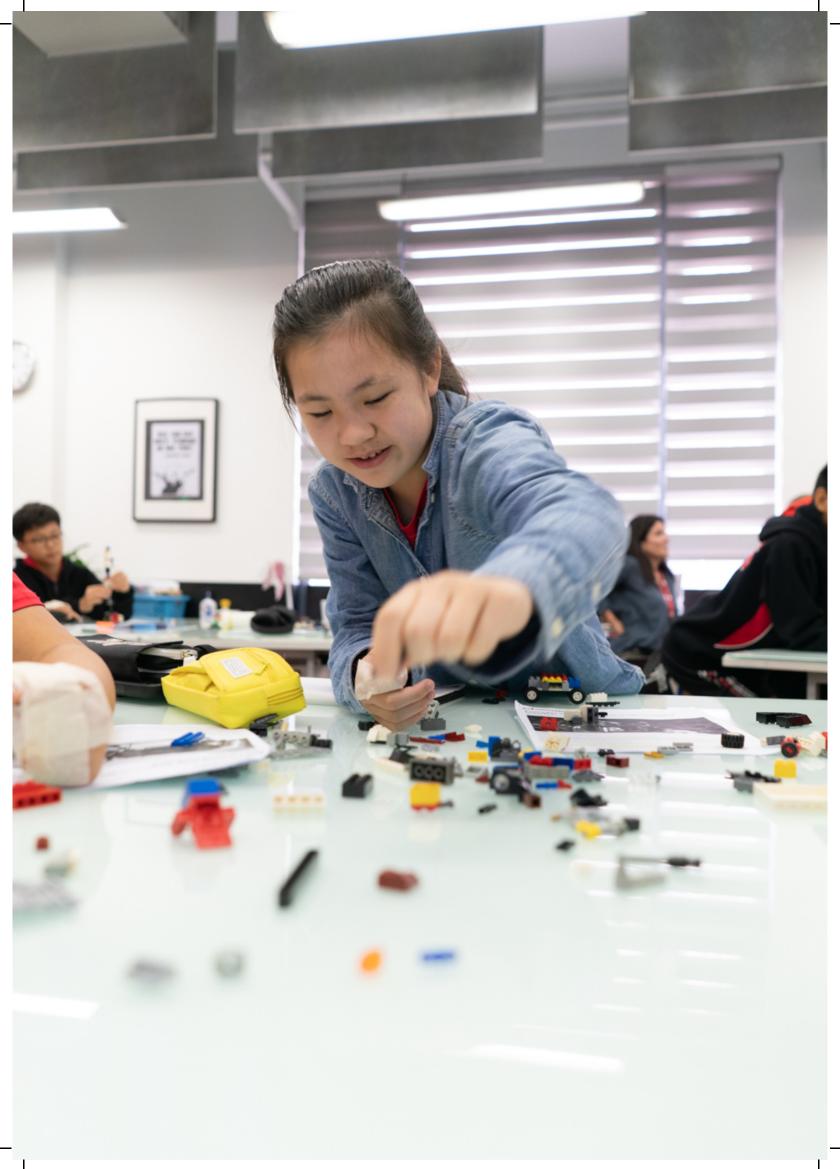
- · Reading Process
- Literary Texts
- Nonfiction

#### MAP Language - Fall 2020



The MAP Language Usage test assesses student ability in four major strands:

- Grammar/Usage
- Spelling/Punctuation/Capitalization
- · Paragraphs and Sentences
- Genre/Purposes/Audience



### FRENCH BILINGUAL PROGRAM

The French Bilingual Program has offered the Francophone community in Shenzhen a French - English bilingual education from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 9 since 2009. This year we had 65 students enrolled in the program - 52 students in primary and 13 students in secondary.

Planning for the 2020 - 2021 school year, SIS implemented the French Bilingual Extended Program for PreK 1 and PreK 2. These classes offer more English than the regular French Bilingual Program - 50% French, 40% English, and 10% Mandarin with inquiry-based instruction. Families have the option in Kindergarten to enroll in SIS's International Program or continue with the French Bilingual Program.

### LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

#### The German Program

The German Heritage Language program supports the German-speaking community of Shenzhen. Enrollment for the 2019-20 German Program at SIS enabled students from Kindergarten through Grade 5 who speak German as a first or additional language join at any time during the school year. Kindergarten is the only grade level in which non-native German language learners can join.

#### The Mandarin Program

All SIS students begin studying Chinese for Speakers of Other Languages (CSOL) in Kindergarten and have the opportunity to continue through each grade level through the IB Diploma Program in Grade 12. This year we had 11 Chinese teachers and 2 Chinese teacher assistants spread across two campuses.





### **ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES**

The SIS Athletics and Activities Program The SIS Athletics and Activities Program engages students in opportunities to develop both physical and social skills, experience success, and extend themselves in areas outside of the classroom. Sports exchanges were organized for SIS students from Grade 4 to 12 throughout the school year. Our students participated in tournaments for volleyball, basketball, soccer, touch rugby, badminton, swimming, track and field, and golf up until February, when the school program was closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Association of China and Mongolia International School (ACAMIS) - membership of 77 schools ranging in size from less than 300 pupils to over 2,500 in Mongolia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. In addition to the continued connections for students through sports tournaments and cultural events.

**Pearl River Conference (PRC)** -promotes youth development in middle and high school by providing regular, competitive sporting contests in a well-structured environment for students of international schools in the Pearl River Delta area. The Pearl River Southern Delta refers to the network of cities that covers the province of Guangdong, namely Dongguan, Foshan, Guangzhou, Huizhou, Jiangmen, Shenzhen, Zhaoqing, Zhongshan and Zhuhai and the SARs of Hong Kong and Macau.





**Southern Delta Region Conference (SDRC)** - provide the opportunity for its member schools to engage in regular, organized competitions that embody the principles of good sportsmanship. The motto of the league is "play hard, play fair, everybody wins". 5 schools participate and host annual three day home-stay tournaments in four core sports; Soccer, Touch, Volleyball and Basketball.

Shenzhen International Schools Athletic Conference (SISAC) - promotes healthy, competitive sport for middle school and high school students for 8 international schools in the Shenzhen district.



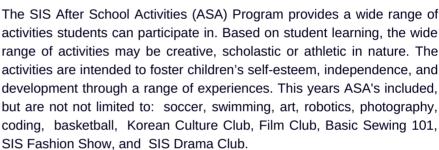
# **ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES**

"The 2019-2020 SIS Athletics and Activities started strongly with sign-ups for season one. With more students participating in more activities and sports across the secondary and primary Schools than ever before, we were off to a great start. More teams, more sports, and more athletes all means more fun and fitness—so many smiling faces. Other activities included Model United Nations (Singapore), House Building(Philippines), Winter Concert, drama performances, choir, and many more. At SIS, students get to experience a wide variety of activities that provide opportunities to develop existing skills, cultivate new areas of interest, and grow physically, socially, emotionally, spiritually, and cognitively."

Barry Jenkin, Athletics and Activities Director



#### After School Activities





#### **Intersessions**

Intersessions at SIS, encourages students to explore new interests and cultivate existing skills and talents in an exciting and safe environment. Working with 5 Star Sports, SIS provides the highest quality experiences that ensure children remain engaged, interact and grow when 'regular' school is not in session. For the 2020 Summer holiday, SIS and 5 Star are offering a summer school enrichment program along with sports and activities.



#### Interscholastic Activities

The SIS interscholastic activities provide opportunities for students to participate in fine arts, cultural and academic events, and competitions. Students have the opportunity to participate and compete against other students from within China and the Asia region. These activities included, but are not limited to: Middle School and High School Model United Nations (MUN) conferences, Global Issues Network (GIN) conferences, Knowledge Bowl and Math Olympics, World Scholars Cup, and Debate Club.



# **ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES**

### Week Without Walls (WWW)

WWW is an annual event that gives SIS students in Grades 4 to 12 opportunities to participate in experiential learning focused on developing the IB Learner Profile Attributes; Communicators, Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective. Shekou International School works in conjunction with the company DragonFly to establish safe, exciting, and challenging courses for all our WWW trips. Students travel in grade-level groups to various destinations within China, Hong Kong, and Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia). They participate in teambuilding activities, personal and team challenges, service-learning experiences, and cultural interactions to expand their knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and develop the capacity to contribute to their communities in the future.

#### Athletics & Activities 2019-2020 Statistics

Total number of ASA: 146 (Tri 1 and Tri 2)

Total number of ASA Spots offered: 2436

Total number of sports: 23

Total number of games hosted by SIS: 158

Total number of games played (including the games hosted by SIS): 622

Total number of sports buses: 618

\* We were the only school out of the whole of ACAMIS to host HS ACAMIS Basketball Tournament this school year!



### **FINE ARTS**

At SIS, we believe that the Fine Arts engage, inspire, and enrich all students, encouraging them to reach their creative potential. The SIS Fine Arts programs offer a comprehensive education in both Music and Visual Arts from PreK 1 through Grade 12. The study of fine arts is essential to the development of the whole child, and involvement in the fine arts is a catalyst for skill development in all areas of their learning. Participating in the fine arts promotes self-expression, communication, intrinsic worth, and emotional exploration through individual and collaborative approaches.



### Music Program

SIS offers a comprehensive musical education from PreK 1 through Grade 12. Music literacy is the foundation of music learning at SIS. Students learn literacy skills through singing, playing instruments, composing, analyzing, and performing. This year our high school band, choir, and strings ensemble performed a Winter Concert. The high school choir participated in an online musical collaboration directed by their teacher, Mr. Krebs. The Primary Drama Club performed the musical "Pirates."

#### Visual Arts

The SIS Visual Arts department offers a discipline-based art program from PreK 1 through Grade 12 which includes art production, art history, art criticism, aesthetic awareness, and personal expression. This year, our IB DP Grade 12 students took High Level (HL), creating 8-11 art works in 2D, 3D, and 4D mediums. Due to COVID-19, this year's art exhibition, which included the IB DP, HS Fashion Show, and PreK 1 - Grade 11 art was canceled due to COVID -19. - moving them to virtual platforms. The Fashion Show Committee and IB DP Art Visual Arts created commemorative books for everyone to enjoy.





### STUDENT SUPPORT

SIS recognizes and celebrates the diversity of the learning strengths and challenges of each of our students. In support of the school's mission, purpose, and philosophy, as existing space and resources allow, students with additional learning needs are admitted.

Each campus has a full-time learning support specialist. The services provided by the learning support specialist include individual and small-group interventions, teacher collaboration and professional development, and parent education.

### English as an Additional Language (EAL)

The primary goal of the EAL program is to ensure access to the curriculum and expedite language acquisition. To achieve this goal, SIS supports a Sheltered-Immersion Model (SIM). EAL teachers work directly with students in their classrooms, simultaneously immersing students in the mainstream population. Students are not withdrawn from their classrooms. Within the students' core classes, support is provided in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

### English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses are available through Grade 6-10. The EAP course design is tightly connected to and aims to support the academic language demands of core classes (Humanities, English, Social Studies, Science, and Math). The EAP teacher collaborates with core teachers to build the EAP curriculum backwards from the assessment tasks in these classes and based on the student's language needs. The EAP curriculum develops academic language at the word/phrase level, sentence level, and discourse level.

### STUDENT SUPPORT

### **Counseling Services**

We are committed to the optimal growth of all our students as individuals and as part of the entire SIS community. Our comprehensive, developmental, and proactive counseling program addresses our student's personal, social, emotional, and academic needs. A focus on traits of global citizenship, effective communication, independent learning, complex thinking and collaboration skills helps to reinforce the positive and productive learning environment at SIS. Counselors provide individual and group counseling sessions, work in partnership with teachers and parents and provide materials and resources to enhance the learning program. Counselors are able to provide services to enhance student achievement and adjustment.

### Counselors in the Primary School

The counselor offers classroom lessons and support services for students and families as they manage issues of studying and living in an international environment. The goal is to promote personal well-being, healthy relationships, and the successful balance of academic, extracurricular, and community involvement for SIS students.

### Counselors in the Middle and High School

Middle and high school guidance and counseling services support students in the development of their unique learning styles and personal growth. Classroom and parent programs are designed to help students and families in adjusting to overseas life. There is an advisory program that guides the students in their academic, personal, emotional, and career awareness growth. In high school, an organized and systematic approach to academic counseling supports students in the development of a four-year plan to attain entry to the desired post-academic program. Individual and family presentations help with the preparation of excellent college admissions applications and career planning.

### **Learning Support**

**EAL** 5 Primary Teachers

2 Teaching Assist.4 Secondary Teachers

2 Primary Teachers 2 Primary Teaching Assist. 2 Secondary Teachers



#### **Counsellors**

1 Primary 1 Middle School 1 Secondary



### **INNOVATION & CREATIVITY**

SIS is recognized as a leader in innovation and creativity within the region. At SIS, innovation is a mindset. It is an approach. It is an attitude. Innovation starts with taking a critical look at what exists and seeing where it can be improved. It needs a commitment to reflection and thoughtful action. SIS teachers continually strive to improve what they teach and show it to improve student learning and experience.

Our teachers and students are supported by two Learning Innovation Coaches--one on the primary campus and one on the secondary campus. Our coaches work closely with teachers to support them as they innovate their practice. In addition to the Learning Innovation Coaches, our students and staff are supported by the IT Team. The IT Team includes three frontline IT Support positions, a Network Administrator, an IT Applications Specialist, and an IT Manager.

For the 2019-2020 school year, our coaches and tech team worked extensively with our community to bring a top-quality blended learning experience to our students during the COVID-19 outbreak. Our blended learning experience helped students and teachers maintain ongoing lessons in and out of the classroom environment. The main platforms used were SeeSaw for the primary students and Microsoft Team for secondary students.

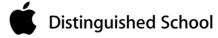
**Primary** 

Seesaw

760,000 Assignments Posted 650,000 Comments by teachers 164,000 Parent Visits Secondary



Avg. of 1000+ online teacher/student meeting per month 1:1 small group student/teacher calls



'Technology has been harnessed in new ways to overcome the challenges of having our student and teaching teams spread out across the globe in numerous timezones. The biggest challenge we faced was the geographical isolation during this time. It was the flexibility and adaptability of the entire community that allowed us to continue our learning uninterrupted and even complete our standardized testing using MAP with strong growth results in Reading and Language."

Phil Rogers, Secondary Principal



### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

This year, SIS students have participated in a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences beyond the boundaries of our classrooms. These experiences have been made possible through collaboration with our SIS parent community, the wider business community of Shenzhen, research and education communities and relevant organizations globally who can provide value to our school programs.

Through these connections, SIS students have gained access to many varied authentic, real-world experiences. As SIS and Shenzhen become more deeply and intricately linked, our campus extends into the community, and the community becomes a part of our school.

This year we welcomed open conversations about future collaborative, long-term opportunities for our students with organizations like OWN Academy, The Nature Conservancy, Shekou Community Foundation, Tencent, World Wildlife Foundation, and the Inspired Citizens. We appreciate the collaboration between our school and parent community, industry professionals and representatives from the Chambers of Commerce, local schools/universities, and community establishments in Shenzhen.

### 2019-2020 Experiences

- SDG Summit
- · Internships with Tencent
- Grade 5 PYPx
- A Day of Inspiration (PYPX Kickoff)
- Guest Speakers across all divisions
- · China Cardboard Challenge
- Tycoon Competition Pitch Event



"Engaging with our community is something we value at SIS. We continued with this engagement via Zoom during COVID-19, with students benefitting from hearing from industry experts and professionals in fields related to their chosen studies, adding a level of depth to their investigations and research. Also, true to the entrepreneurial spirit of Shenzhen, companies like Tencent stepped up to provide unique opportunities for our students to participate in online internships."

Michelle Collin, Director of Advancement



### PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Parents and school, as partners in education, is the aim of schools across the world. SIS can claim to have one of the most supportive, engaged and welcoming communities around.

Our parents are significant participants in school events such as field days and in-class activities, assisting in ensuring students have a rich educational experience. The PSA is a strong channel of communication to keep parents up to date with school matters by facilitating attendance at events and workshops throughout the year.

This year, there has been many events hosted or assisted by the very active members of the Parent Support Association (PSA). Along with year-long projects such as popcorn days, Go-Geckos supporter groups, student-initiated project funds, field trip funds, gifts for graduation and other events, assistance for socials, and charitable work, the PSA has also hosted major projects. During Covid-19, the PSA prepared care packages to fellow community members staying in government quarantine. They supplied-much needed necessities to help our families stay comfortable during this time.

#### A few PSA supported or assisted events:

- · New Family Orientation/PSA
- · Family Movie Night
- Halloween
- · Annual Winter Bazaar
- China Day
- End of Year Pizza Parties
- Purchased Moving Up and Graduation Hoodies for Grades 5, 8, 12











### Five Year Plan

With over 30 years of service to the Shenzhen expatriate community, we have established our reputation as the premier international school across a range of criteria. As Shenzhen expands and additional schooling options are offered within the city, SIS must continue to plan strategically to ensure it remains the first choice for expatriate families seeking a truly international education.

The five-year horizon for Shenzhen will see continued expansion of business and commerce as part of the Greater Bay Area development. This can be expected to also include additional schools in the private and international market.

The school has a focus on being the first choice for all expatriate and international families. A full range of courses and programs must offer these families the best options for their children. to achieve this. Expert faculty must provide full services at all stages of the education process.

### Key areas of focus:

- to expand the services provided within the secondary program, particularly focusing on new facilities, added course choices and a greater level of integration with community,
- the expanded use of conceptual and design thinking with authentic project based learning, and
- expansion of our co-curricular program to include greater choice and additional formats and collaboration with approved community providers.





Primary Campus, Nursery - Grade 5 Jingshan Villas, Nanhai Blvd., Shekou, Nanshan, Shenzhen, , Guandong, China 518067

Phone: +86-755-2669-3669

Secondary Campus A-101, Coastal Rose Phase 2, Wanghai Road, Shekou, Nanshan, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China 518067

Phone: +86-755-2669-3669