



# ANNUAL Report 2019-2020

*Connecting in new ways for a new tomorrow*



**We don't accomplish  
anything in this world  
alone... and whatever  
happens is the result of  
the whole tapestry of one's  
life and all the weavings  
of individual threads from  
one to another that creates  
something.**

**SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR**

**Published by:**  
American International School of  
Guangzhou

**Art Direction & Production:**  
Lou O'Brien



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SECTION 1





# Letter from the Director

## Dear AISG Community,

It is my pleasure to present the AISG 2019-2020 Annual Report. I can confidently say that this was an unprecedented year for our school. From the onboarding of a new Director, to the launch of our new Master Facility Plan construction project, and the global outbreak of the ongoing Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it was a year unlike any other in our history! Yet, throughout this time of transition and uncertainty, together as a Connected Community, the RamNation rose to the challenge with resilience and perseverance, **"connecting in new ways for a new tomorrow"**, resulting in many amazing accomplishments!

Our 2019-2020 Annual Report not only looks back on a historic year, but also features a future focus. We look forward to seeing our new innovative learning spaces continue to rise and take shape at our Science Park campus, alongside the further strengthening of relationships in our community, and more innovative improvements in our education program. I am inspired and energized by what our Connected Community is planning

and capable of achieving.

By working closely with the guidance of a committed Board of Governors and an amazingly talented faculty and staff, we are meeting the challenges of preparing students to be future-ready and laying the strategic groundwork for AISG to advance its position as a leader in international education. This coming year we will be developing and refining a strategic plan for our school. I look forward to your collaboration and active participation as we chart our course for the future together!

It is an honor to take the time to reflect on our past year in this annual report and to share our accomplishments and achievements, as well as highlight future initiatives for AISG. This year, despite the COVID-19 crisis, we have taken exciting steps to further raise our high standards of excellence for our students and strengthen our reputation and position as the Premier International School in Guangzhou.







I would like to take this opportunity to thank three special groups who are at the center of the AISG experience: our students, our parents, and our faculty and staff.

**Students:** It has truly been a year we will never forget! Your resilience has been amazing as you have faced challenges that no previous AISG students have ever faced before. You did so with tenacity, perseverance, hard work and with the dedication to not just survive, but to thrive. Throughout this incredible pandemic experience, you were courageous; you never lost hope; you never stopped believing in yourself and your ability to achieve your dreams. Your efforts are inspirational. Please know that we are incredibly proud of each of you. We look forward to seeing you continue to grow, develop, and thrive into the future!

**Parents:** Our success along with your child's success would not have been possible without you. Your sacrifice, support and encouragement

of your child through this past year provided the firm foundation of all the successes highlighted in this annual report. Thank you for your positive partnership and faith in our school throughout this challenging year. You were the glue of our Connected Community! We came through it together!

**Faculty and Staff:** Thank you for your personal investment in the lives of each of our students throughout the year, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. You went above and beyond the call of duty numerous times to meet your student's needs, challenge their thinking, and equip them with new skills and perspectives. You nurtured amazing growth in each student through your inspirational influence and by caring for them both in and outside the classroom. However, most importantly, you have touched their hearts, and this is the difference that will be remembered as our students move forward in their educational journey. Thank you for your tireless dedication and your personalized focus in each of their lives.

Our passion and commitment to our vision and mission for the families of Guangzhou burns brighter than ever before. The American International School of Guangzhou is a very special school that we all cherish. It is a place where the people of the world come together in our Dynamic, Compassionate and Connected Community to explore, discover and thrive so that we all can make a positive difference in the world to which we all belong. AISG cares, AISG is family, we ARE RamNation, and I am Ram Proud to be your Director!

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation and warmest congratulations to the entire RamNation community on a great year as we look forward to many more years to come!

Go Rams!

Kevin Baker, Director

Connecting  
in new  
ways for  
a new  
tomorrow.

KEVIN BAKER, DIRECTOR



# Leadership Team: Delivering Exceptional Education

The Leadership Team fulfills the school's mission, values and strategic plan and is responsible for the design and implementation of both the strategic and operational functions of the school. The Leadership Team functions in accordance with best practices, as well as with our accrediting bodies and local government regulations.



## Leadership Team

ROW ONE: **Kevin Baker** – Director, **Dirk de Jager** – Director of Finance & Operations, **Kerry Timmerman** – High School Principal, **Rick Bunnell** – Middle School Principal, **Trixie Siemens** – Middle School / High School Assistant Principal, **Tatz Lopuhkin** – Elementary School Principal, **Eric Crabtree** – Elementary School Assistant Principal,  
ROW TWO: **Ruth Herrin** – Director of Curriculum & Learning, **Lydia Van Berkhout** – Director of Curriculum & Learning, PYP Coordinator, **Robert Bauer** – Director of Innovation & Technology, **Shirley Chan** – Director of Human Resources, **Zoe Timms** – Director of Communications & Advancement, **Sanja Ilic** – Director of Admissions



# From the Board of Governors



## Board of Governors

**Dr. Winston Zhang** – Chair, **Jason Sheets** – Vice-Chair,  
**Rick Adams** – Secretary, **Jane Wang** – Treasurer,  
**Carmen Wu** – Member, **Tess Cai** – Member, **Thomas Jung** – Member

**AISG persevered  
through a challenging  
period of transition  
and the COVID-19  
crisis. We continue to  
be positioned as the  
premier choice for  
international education  
in South China.**

**DR. WINSTON CHANG,  
BOARD CHAIRMAN**

## Dear AISG Community Members,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I am very pleased to present you with the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

This has been an extraordinary year for AISG and Guangzhou. The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic crisis presented unprecedented challenges to our community and to the school's sustainability; however, RamNation persevered. I am proud of how AISG and our community responded, and I am grateful for everyone's contributions. We demonstrated resilience, fortitude, and commitment, all with the goal of nurturing our children to aspire, achieve, contribute and become leaders through dynamic, compassionate and connected learning. This truly is an achievement, and it cannot go unacknowledged.

Our accomplishments give me great hope and confidence that by continuing to work together and move forward as a community, we will be able to meet the challenges presented to us in this new environment. You can rest assured that AISG is in good hands under the leadership of our Director, Mr. Kevin Baker and a very seasoned Board of Governors that will be led by Mr. Thomas Jung for the upcoming school year.

As you read this report and reflect on the past year, I would like to take this time to also reflect on what my board colleagues and I have accomplished over the year. This includes:

**Onboarding & Empowering Kevin Baker :** When we hired Kevin Baker as AISG's new School Director, we knew that we would be welcoming a gifted educator, administrator, manager, and leader. Since his arrival, we have entrusted Kevin with great responsibility and have supported him in every way possible. To date, Kevin has implemented structures for open dialogue and communication with all stakeholders, developed a cohesive leadership team, generated strong working relationships with the school and community, and improved the alignment of resources to support initiatives. We look forward to working with Kevin to review, and perhaps refresh, our plans to continue advancing the school's excellence.

**Rephasing & Green Lighting the Master Facilities Plan:** With a new school director, finance director, and a 57 percent turnover in board membership, we thought it would be prudent to review and scrutinize the Master Facilities Plan (MFP) with a fresh set of eyes. We concluded that we could re-sequence the construction phases in a way that would better serve the school's interest and give us more control over the project. We gained greater precision with total project costs and construction finance options. With phase one almost complete, we are well positioned to proceed with phase two. The MFP continues to proceed as scheduled and on budget.

**Supporting AISG Through COVID-19:** Leveraging our knowledge, skills, and experience, we worked closely with our Director, Mr. Kevin Baker and his team to ensure that the school remained financially viable and instruction continued. While it was unfortunate that many school activities could not be conducted, the dedication, commitment, and creativity of AISG faculty and staff allowed the school to follow through with hybrid teaching and learning platforms, in-person classes during the last two months of the school year, and graduation ceremonies in May.

It truly has been my privilege to serve as the Chair of the AISG Board of Governors for the past three years. Over the years, we have not only strengthened our balance sheet, but also improved our reserves. I am glad that AISG is in a solid financial position to weather storms like the COVID-19 crisis. Most importantly, we have built a cohesive board that is aligned with the Director to support the vision and mission of AISG. Even though I will no longer provide oversight of the school or participate in strategic planning, I remain a Ram and will always be a supporter of the RamNation.

**Dr. Winston Zhang,  
Ph.D., P.E., ASME Fellow  
Board Chairman**

# The Year in Numbers 2019 – 2020

This year was one that will never be forgotten. A year that started off with a calendar full of events, activities, competitions, exhibitions and onsite learning opportunities turned into a year that required the world to suddenly shift gears and function in a virtual environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. AISG's adaptation to the new environment was met with ingenuity, resilience and creativity and the momentum to nurture the academic and emotional intelligence of our students continued. The year was characterized by numerous achievements, but here are a few numbers that deserve to be highlighted.



65

senior students  
graduated from AISG

12,400+

followers reached on our  
AISG social media accounts



FOURTEEN  
TIME ZONES

across the world from which our  
students and faculty accessed  
**online learning**



different species of **fish**  
and **coral** in the Elementary  
School's new saltwater  
aquarium, **generously**  
donated by our PTA

119

colleges and  
universities  
accepted our  
senior Rams into  
their programs

300,000  
RMB

was raised by the AISG PTA

54

**COUNTRIES**  
represented  
on UN DAY in  
the Elementary  
School

150,000



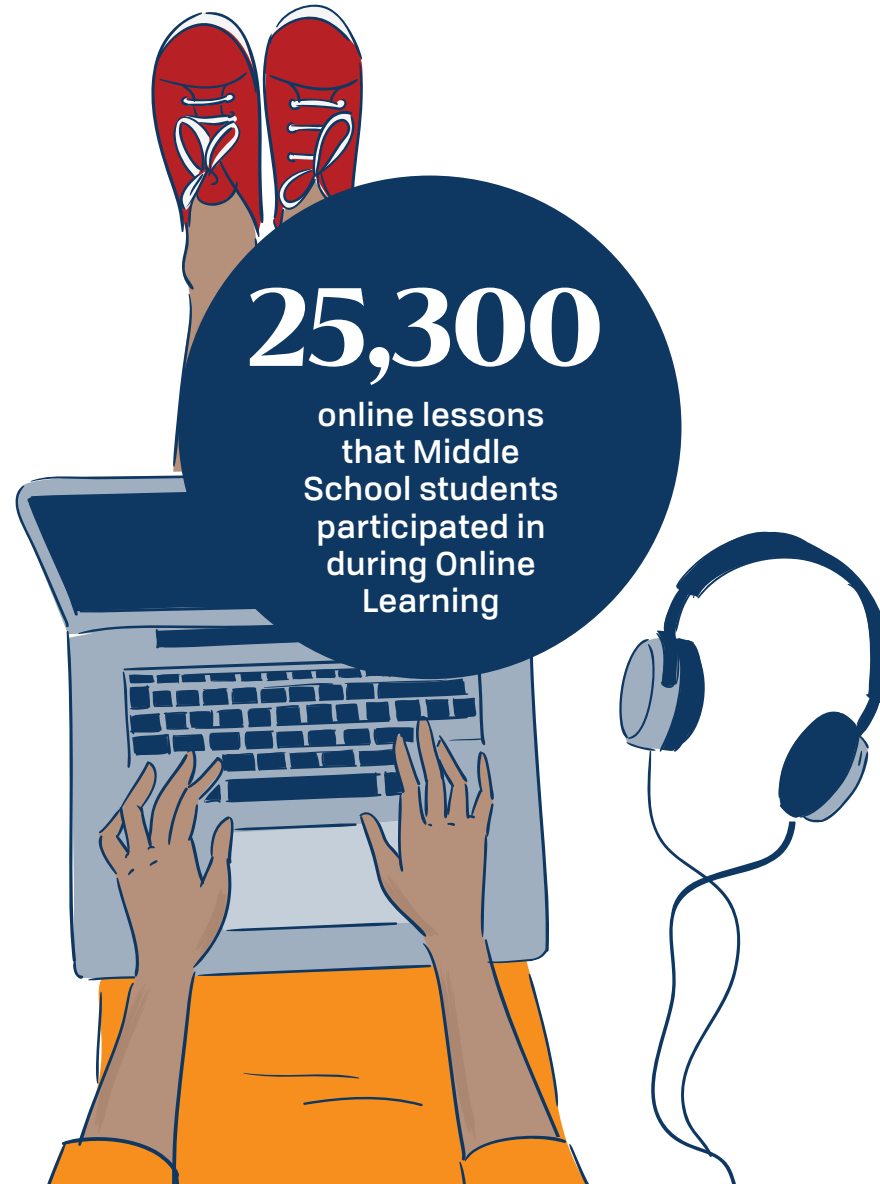
**SEESAW** posts during  
online learning

1

phase that is nearly  
completed of the Master  
Facility Plan, which  
includes the Upper  
Elementary School at the  
Science Park campus

25,300

online lessons  
that Middle  
School students  
participated in  
during Online  
Learning



6,400RMB

raised by Elementary  
School for the Baiyun  
Community charitable  
drive around Chinese  
New Year

45

**IB SCORE**

a perfect score,  
earned by one of  
our seniors





Master Facilities Plan Update:

# Our Vision for Learning



82%  
of PHASE 1 completed  
(June 2020)

213,874  
TOTAL SAFE MANHOURS  
OF LABOR

SCIENCE PARK CAMPUS

## GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

广州美国人国际学校  
科学城校区升级改造项目动工仪式



We look forward  
to seeing our  
new innovative  
learning spaces  
continue to rise  
and take shape at  
our Science Park  
campus.

KEVIN BAKER,  
DIRECTOR

### A Carefully Planned Construction

The design and tendering process of the Master Facilities Plan (MFP) was completed at the end of the 2018-19 school year. This culminated in a proposed building that was intentionally designed with the future of learning in mind. Consisting of large, bright, open learning spaces, the plan is designed to promote collaborative and transparent learning. The new buildings are also sustainable, both in terms of green building design and flexible space that will allow them to evolve with the pedagogical changes that lie ahead.

The MFP was thoughtfully designed to be constructed in four phases, so that it could be

completed during regular school days with minimal impact to the student's learning and environment. Phase One began this year with a Groundbreaking Ceremony in October 2019. Phase One entailed the construction of the building that will eventually become the Upper Elementary School, but for the upcoming school year, it will be the temporary location of the Secondary School while Phase Two takes place. Phase Two is the construction of the main academic wing where the Secondary School will eventually be located and is due to start at the end of October.



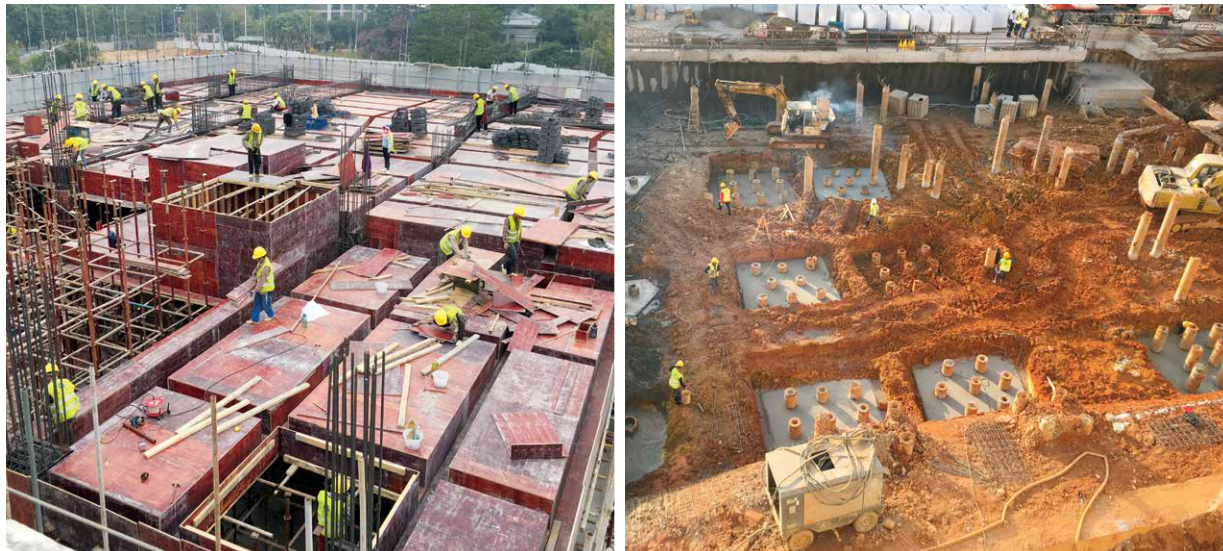
## Phase One

As with any new building construction, it all starts with the foundation. This was the first glimpse of the specific construction methods employed to prevent disruption to learning. Instead of standard pile driving, the construction team used a 500-ton Static Piling Machine that instead of hammering, would simply push the pre-cast pile into the ground with its massive hydraulic vice. Incidentally, this machine is electric, which also eliminates engine noise and pollution.

Following the completion of the pile foundation, the basement slab was poured and then the main structure was erected. During the construction of the main structure, the formwork of each floor was left in place to allow for an accelerated build, which would then take advantage of the Chinese New Year holiday period for the concrete to fully set.

Following the Chinese New Year holiday, albeit with an additional break in construction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the air conditioning, water, network, and electrics were fitted, followed by the façade and a top-down internal fit-out. The gap in construction due to the COVID-19 pandemic was somewhat closed because construction was ramped up in the absence of the students. The total delay to the project was minimal with just a little over six weeks.

In addition to the new Upper Elementary School building, we constructed additional classrooms on top of the existing dining hall. We also have plans to construct additional classrooms inside the old dining hall when the new dining hall and kitchen come online in October.



**PHASE 1:**  
DURATION: 322 DAYS  
Start: October 12, 2019  
End: August 29, 2020



SECTION 2



# A Celebration of Learning

# Our Curriculum

**The American International School of Guangzhou provides the International Baccalaureate Primary Years and Diploma Programme as well as a standards-based curriculum. AERO, Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards are used throughout all divisions to tailor a program most relevant to our unique context and learners.**

AISG is one of only two schools in all of Asia and the only school in China to have a full K-12 implementation of the PLC at Work framework. During the 2018-2019 school year, AISG hosted the first PLC Symposium for all our faculty. Every subsequent year has resulted in further PLC development amongst our teachers which directly impacts student learning outcomes.

The 2019-2020 school year presented the AISG community with many learning opportunities that stretched our thinking and changed our practices for the better. During the first semester, our focus as a faculty was on assessment and the most effective ways of providing feedback. Teachers reflected on their practice, identified ways that they could better assess for learning,

and began creating new innovative ways to acquire evidence, respond to student work and document learning. Due to COVID-19, the second half of the 2019-2020 school year was converted to online learning and provided us with opportunities to adapt our teaching and learning to new circumstances. Our faculty rose to the challenge and quickly established dynamic, connected and innovative ways to continue the learning, provide personalized feedback and assess effectively.

The 2019-2020 school year provided us the focus and opportunity to look more closely at our curriculum and identify the most essential aspects. Less really is more. PLC teams worked collaboratively to determine the essential elements of our units and distill content into what is most important to cover. This process re-emphasized the importance of all the hard work done over the past few years in identifying power standards and creating a viable and aligned curriculum.

Additional curricular work this year included an introduction to the Next Generation Science Standards for science in the Elementary School, determining Social Studies power standards across divisions and the initial review of the Preschool, World Language, English Language Arts and Learning Support and EAL curriculums. The curriculum review process for these content areas will continue in the 2020-2021 school year.

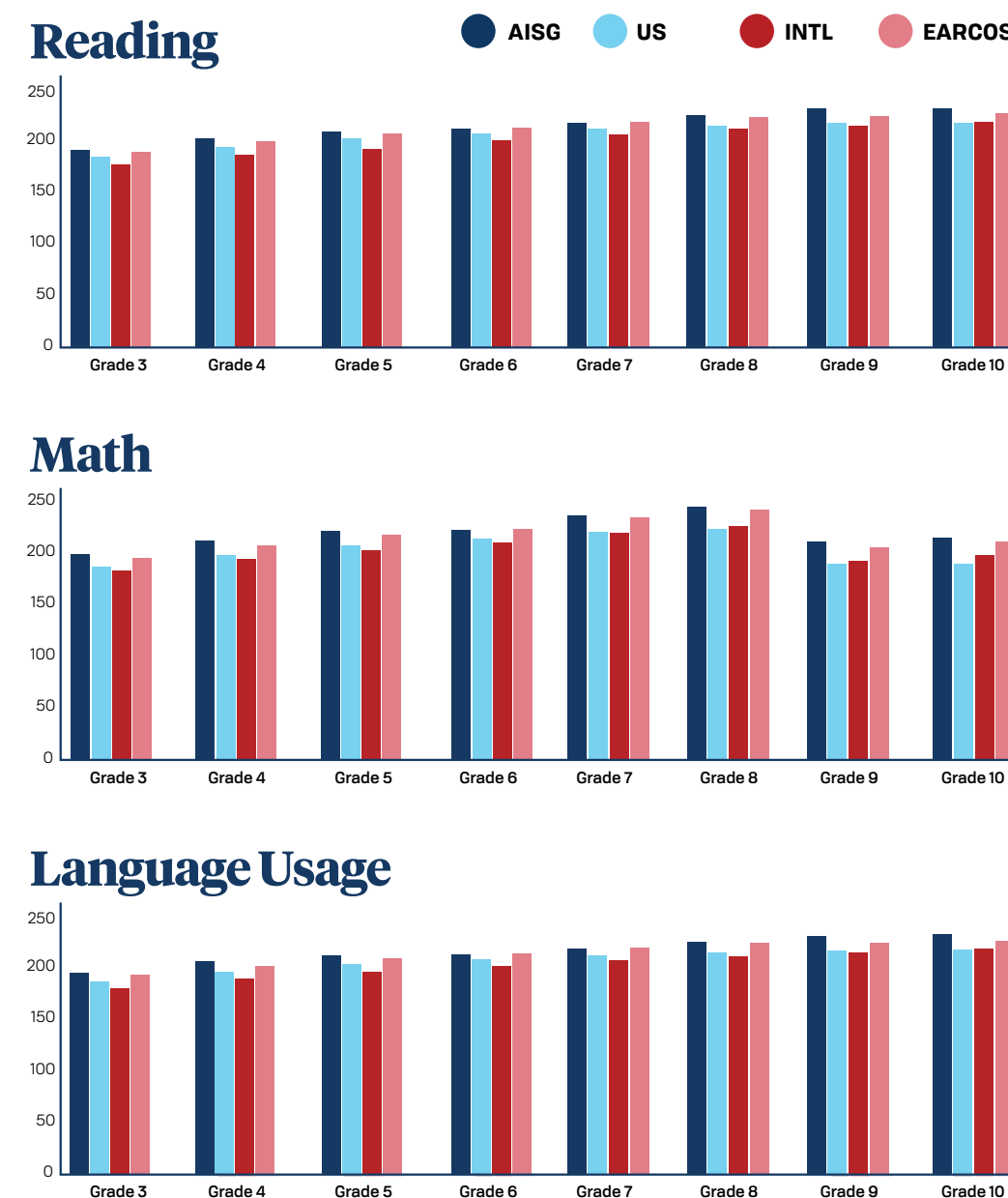
## Academic Progress

**Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP Tests, in mathematics, language usage and reading were administered twice throughout the year for students in grades 3 through 10.**

MAP Tests are adaptive assessments, meaning the level of questions adjust to best assess students' abilities. Results are reported in a manner which allows AISG to compare scores from international, US and EARCOS schools. Our Fall 2019 MAP results indicate that AISG students

are performing well above international and US school norms, consistent with longitudinal results. AISG scores were higher than, or in close proximity to, EARCOS norms in most subjects, most notably in mathematics, which is also consistent with historical results.

Fall 2019 MAP Comparative Learning Data – Mean RIT versus Grade Level





# International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme Results

**AISG's 2020 International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) results, or IB results, were outstanding! Of our 65 seniors, 60 students were full diploma candidates. Of the full diploma candidates, 17 earned bilingual diplomas and 16 were in the National Honor Society. Our average IB score was 36 out of a possible 45 which is well above the world average of 29.9.**

AISG outperformed last year's IB results in every category. In addition to an increase in the AISG average diploma score from 32 points to 36, mean exam grades from those earning the diploma increased from 5.15 to 5.67, outpacing the world average of 4.80. Most notably, AISG's highest diploma score was 45 points of the possible 45. Yes, a perfect score! To bring this into perspective only 141 students out of 68K students worldwide, or 0.21%, achieved this score.

For the American International School of Guangzhou, however, success means more than just high grades. When it comes to the IB Diploma Program (IBDP), the school believes in an inclusive approach. Our IB Coordinator, Anne Martin-Bauer summarizes AISG's IBDP:

*"AISG has an open enrollment policy for the IBDP. We believe it is accessible to virtually all AISG students. We believe that with commitment and effort from the student and support from the school and home, almost all students can successfully pursue the full IBDP."*

The desire to become a future-ready learning



community is something that the school places great importance on. AISG's Director, Kevin Baker is very pleased with this year's results and says:

*"I am very proud of the academic excellence that our students demonstrated with their outstanding IB results! Their success is a testament to the instruction, preparation and support that they received at AISG as well as their personal dedication, tenacity, hard work and resilience to thrive during the pandemic crisis. They were courageous and never lost hope nor stopped believing in their ability to succeed and achieve their dreams! Way to go, Rams!"*

AISG's rigorous IBDP combined with a strong College Counseling program and an emphasis on social emotional wellness, seems to provide a unique platform for students to find their best fit pathway. It is this very balance of providing students with opportunities to take ownership of their learning and creating young adults who are future-ready that cements AISG's place as the premier international school in Guangzhou.

**60/65 students...**



were full diploma candidates



**29%** of these students earned bilingual diplomas

**16** were in the National Honor Society

**AISG's highest diploma score was**



**Only 0.21%** of students worldwide achieved this



**Mean exam grades\*** increased from 5.15 to 5.67, outpacing the world average of 4.80

*\*from those earning the diploma*



**Our IB average score of 36\*** was well above the world average of 29.9<sup>†</sup>

*\*of a possible 45  
† for May 2020*

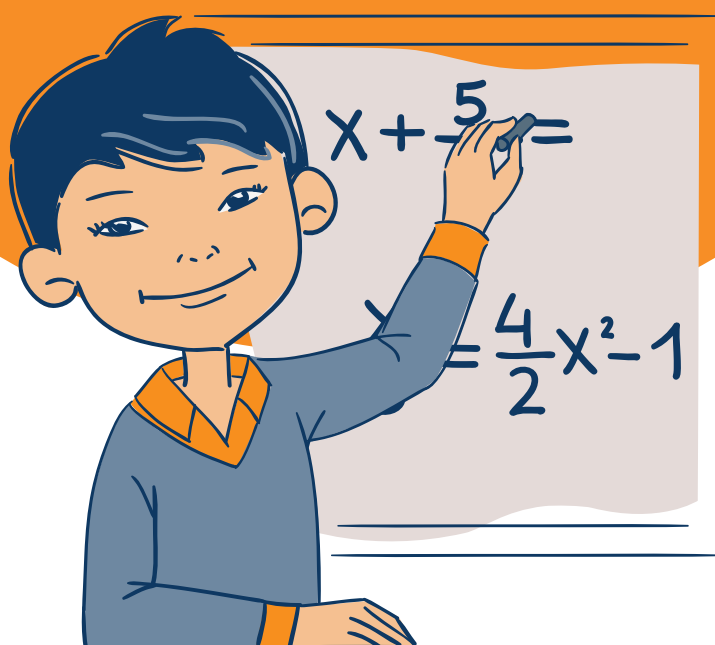


**4-point increase** in the AISG Average Diploma Score

SCHOOL REVIEW:

# Elementary School

No one could foresee the challenges that AISG and the world would face during the spring of 2020. The Elementary School started off the school year with inspired learning and teaching, driven by student inquiry into engaging units on many exciting topics. However, during the Chinese New Year break COVID-19 spread across Asia and around the world, leaving AISG with no choice but to close its campuses and begin online learning. Our teachers and students, who ended up being located all over the world, worked together to continue delivering instruction while learning in a new and different way. It was a semester unlike any other that we have seen, but in characteristic fashion, AISG's Connected Community stood together to learn and grow.



## Chinese New Year Celebration

AISG celebrates Chinese New Year with gusto! Our students, parents, faculty, and staff came together to make a memorable and exciting event with songs, dances, an exploration of traditional Chinese art, music and food. It even included a visit from the Fortune God, who looked remarkably similar to our very own School Director, Kevin Baker!

## The Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival

Our Elementary School celebrated this cultural Chinese holiday with a parade of lanterns accompanied by traditional autumn music. Our atrium was adorned with the artworks of our youngest Rams, and parents watched the festive celebration as they waved to their performing children.

## AISG Talent Show

Each autumn, AISG's talent show exhibits the amazing abilities of our Elementary School Rams. With the incredible planning of our faculty and the support of our parents, our talent show came to Science Park and did not disappoint. There were dance troupes, classical and traditional music and dance performances, magicians, a rock band, and even a funny skit with Mr. Baker, Ms. Tatz and the faculty!

## Grade 5 PYP Exhibition

Our beloved PYP Exhibition moved online in the spring of 2020, but this did not take away from the incredible learning and research shown by the Fifth Graders. After weeks of research and using skills developed throughout their time in Elementary School, the AISG community was amazed to see independent projects about a range of exciting and timely topics. AISG is so proud of our Fifth Graders!

## AISG Hosts Southern China Math Olympiads Celebration

This year, AISG hosted schools from all over Southern China in a Math Olympiads celebration. Math Olympiads is a collaborative challenge where teams are tasked to work together to solve complex and realistic math problems in short amounts of time. AISG entered 5 teams this year and our Rams loved the opportunity to put their love of math and the skills they are developing to the test! Our Rams are talented mathematicians!



# Elementary School Highlights in Numbers

70

**days of online learning**  
while campus was closed

~1,200+

**Zoom calls**  
held between teachers and students during online learning



18,000

**books in the Ersha Library**  
AISG reads and our Rams love books

152

**total performers**  
in this year's Elementary School **Talent Show**

7

**NEW FACULTY MEMBERS**  
joining AISG's Elementary School next year

2

**HIGHLY-TRAINED COUNSELORS** on Ersha campus that work with our students in class and individually to help develop interpersonal skills, promote cooperation, resolve conflicts, practice collaboration techniques, understand how to respect and protect themselves and others, all while making friends

SCHOOL REVIEW:

## Middle School

In 2019-2020, our dedicated faculty and staff banded together to guide our students through a challenging year. The pandemic that gripped the world during our entire spring semester pushed us to find new and creative ways to support the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students, without the benefit of being physically in their presence. With students and teachers scattered across the globe, we leveraged our technological resources and skills to provide a personal, compassionate, engaging, and rigorous learning environment. Though the obstacles were many and the challenges endless, we came together as a community, supported each other, took ownership of our own performance, and made it work. It took determination and resilience to finish the year successfully, and the Middle School is stronger for the experience.



# Middle School Highlights in Numbers

## 5,200+

steps were taken by  
Middle School students in  
the STEPS CHALLENGE

## 33

games won and a perfect  
record for our Division I  
GIRLS SOCCER and TOUCH

## 5+

**PLATFORMS**, especially Microsoft Teams and Zoom,  
that Middle Schoolers used to increase their technology  
skills and understanding of digital citizenship during  
online learning

## 38

average minutes Middle  
School teachers and  
students were on a  
conference **zoom call**

## 3

**favorite quarantine snacks**  
of our Middle School faculty  
are GOLDEN GRAHAMS,  
CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER  
ICE CREAM and GIRL GUIDE  
COOKIES



## 65

days of online learning  
while the campus was closed

## Steps Challenge

During the second semester the Health and PE department put out a call to the community to participate in a STEPS CHALLENGE. The purpose was to exercise to reduce stress, help improve concentration and boost spirits – all while enjoying some friendly competition across the school. 3 of the 4 winning classes came from our MIDDLE SCHOOL! Congratulations to Grade 6 with 2,479,396 steps, followed by Grade 8 with 1,471,877 steps and Grade 7 chasing close behind with 1,336,817 steps.

## Girls Middle School Athletics

The highlight for Middle School Athletics was the success of our Division I Girls Soccer and Touch. These sports had a combined perfect record of 33-0, winning the SDRG Girls Soccer Championship, the PRC Red Division Girls Soccer Championship, the Girls Soccer GZ Cup, the SDRG Girls Touch Championship, and the PRC Red Division Girls Touch Championship. We wish these athletes luck as many will move into the High School Athletics program next year!

## Middle School Student Council

Leadership in Action! This year, the Middle School Student Council (MSSC), guided by Ms. Zlaket and Ms. Seiple, led two after school events for Middle School students. The first, a welcome back BBQ, gave students the chance to reconnect after the summer break. The second, a photo scavenger hunt, had students form teams and collect action photos from around the school. Thank you MSSC for your commitment to building school spirit in our Middle School!

## Middle School Music Program

Music, Music, Music! If you were able to come to the Choir, Band or Strings Concerts, you had the privilege to see our Grade 6 performers performing onstage as a united group, just weeks into learning their instruments! For many students this was their very first concert!

## Middle School Newspaper Launch

This year saw the launch of the first ever Middle School student newspaper: The *Lantern*. Content included a range of articles, including a review of our guest Slam Poet, Luka Lesson, sports, movies, travel and more. These intrepid 6th graders gathered story ideas, wrote, edited and published their online newspaper, all while in quarantine. We can't wait to see the next edition!





## SCHOOL REVIEW:

# High School

The 2019-20 school year will live in infamy. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that we moved quickly to online learning for the bulk of the second semester. We were fortunately able to return to school in late April/early May, but sadly many of our students and faculty were displaced outside of China. Despite all the challenges, AISG persevered. On May 28th, members of the Class of 2020 (both online and on campus) gathered with members of the faculty, staff, and their loved ones to commemorate and celebrate their graduation. This Class, with their incredible dedication and motivation, will not be forgotten.



## College Counseling

A dedicated College Counselor was added this year to the AISG faculty to provide even greater access to students and families that wish to explore college and university options. Finding a university with the right fit for each student, as well as promoting AISG to universities as the premier international school, is also a major focus of this new position.

## Record Enrollment

The High School welcomed eighty-one Grade 9 students this year, which is the highest number of students in a High School grade in the history of AISG. We believe this increased enrollment reflects the quality educational experience that is given to each student in our care.

## Amazing Seniors

Despite the unexpectedness of the final few months, the Class of 2020 met their final deadlines for the International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme and achieved great results. Students were accepted and will attend prestigious schools such as UC-Berkeley, University of Chicago, New York University, Boston University, The University of Tokyo, The University of Hong Kong, and many other schools that were students' "first choice" schools.

## Drama & Music

This year's musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, was a great success! The cast of Middle School and High School students had a stupendous performance in front of a sold-out crowd. The play also included AISG's Middle School and High School musicians who played from the orchestra pit and contributed beautifully to the overall success of the event. There were even guest appearances from some of our faculty! The Arts Department has, once again, found a way to combine our students' drama and musical talents, which made this a must-see event!

## Ram Pride Across the World

AISG's tradition of producing a High School video went INTERNATIONAL this year! With so many in the community displaced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the video included faculty and students from nearby in Guangzhou and Dongguan to far away places around the world, such as Thailand, Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, Australia, Singapore, the US and Canada! It was a fun video to spread Ram Pride around the world!



# High School Highlights in Numbers

ONE

**dedicated College Counselor**  
was added to the faculty to assist  
our AISG students finding the  
'right-choice' college

81

**Grade 9 students were  
enrolled**, the HIGHEST NUMBER  
of students in a High School  
grade in the history of AISG

33

**teachers attended**  
the graduation and...



...the farewell to the  
**CLASS OF 2020**

32

**Grade 12 students  
returned to campus**  
on April 27, 2020

124

**Grade 9-11 students  
returned to campus**  
on May 11

four

**new High School Student Council  
Executive Officers** elected via online and on  
campus for the 2020-2021 school year



Elementary  
School



Middle  
School

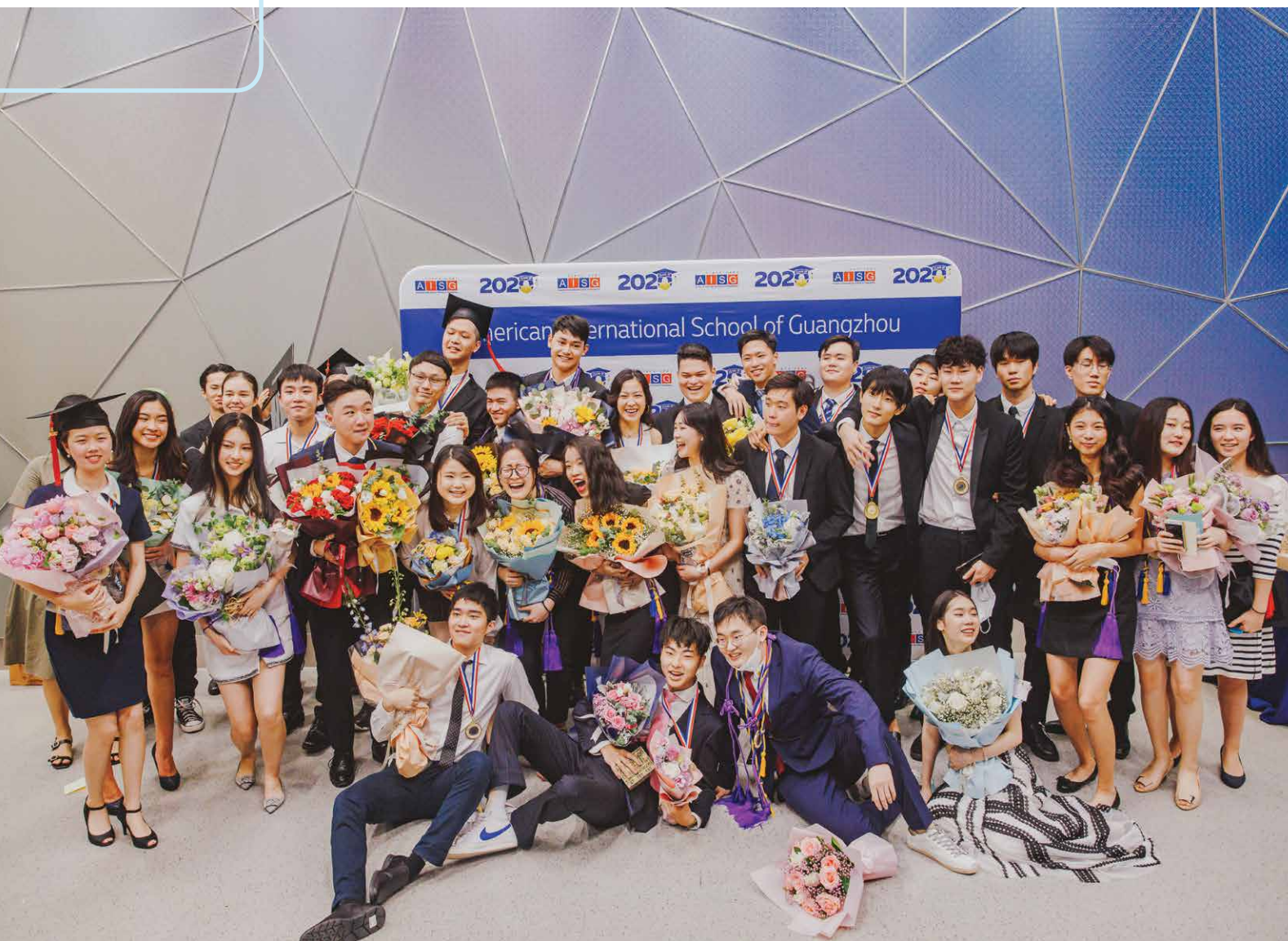


High  
School





# Class of 2020



3.46

AVERAGE

GPA

100%

OF STUDENTS plan  
to attend university  
abroad  
(outside of China)

EIGHT

graduates began  
their education in  
kindergarten **at AISG**

65

students in the  
**Class of 2020**

232

offers made  
to the  
Class of 2020

100+

colleges/  
universities  
visited our school

119

colleges and universities  
accepted our senior Rams  
into their programs

Average IB Score:

36 points



**65 GRADUATES** have  
received offers from more  
than **107 UNIVERSITIES**  
around the world

AISG students will attend  
**TOP UNIVERSITIES**

in  
**10**  
COUNTRIES



# Graduation 2020

# Graduation 2020



**“I’ve learned how important it is to speak up for what I believe in. Through the different types of assignments and extracurricular activities, AISG nurtured my independence and perseverance to voice my own opinions. I will certainly carry this forward to my adult future to keep pursuing the things I feel passionate about.”**

MIKU MAKINO, CLASS OF 2020

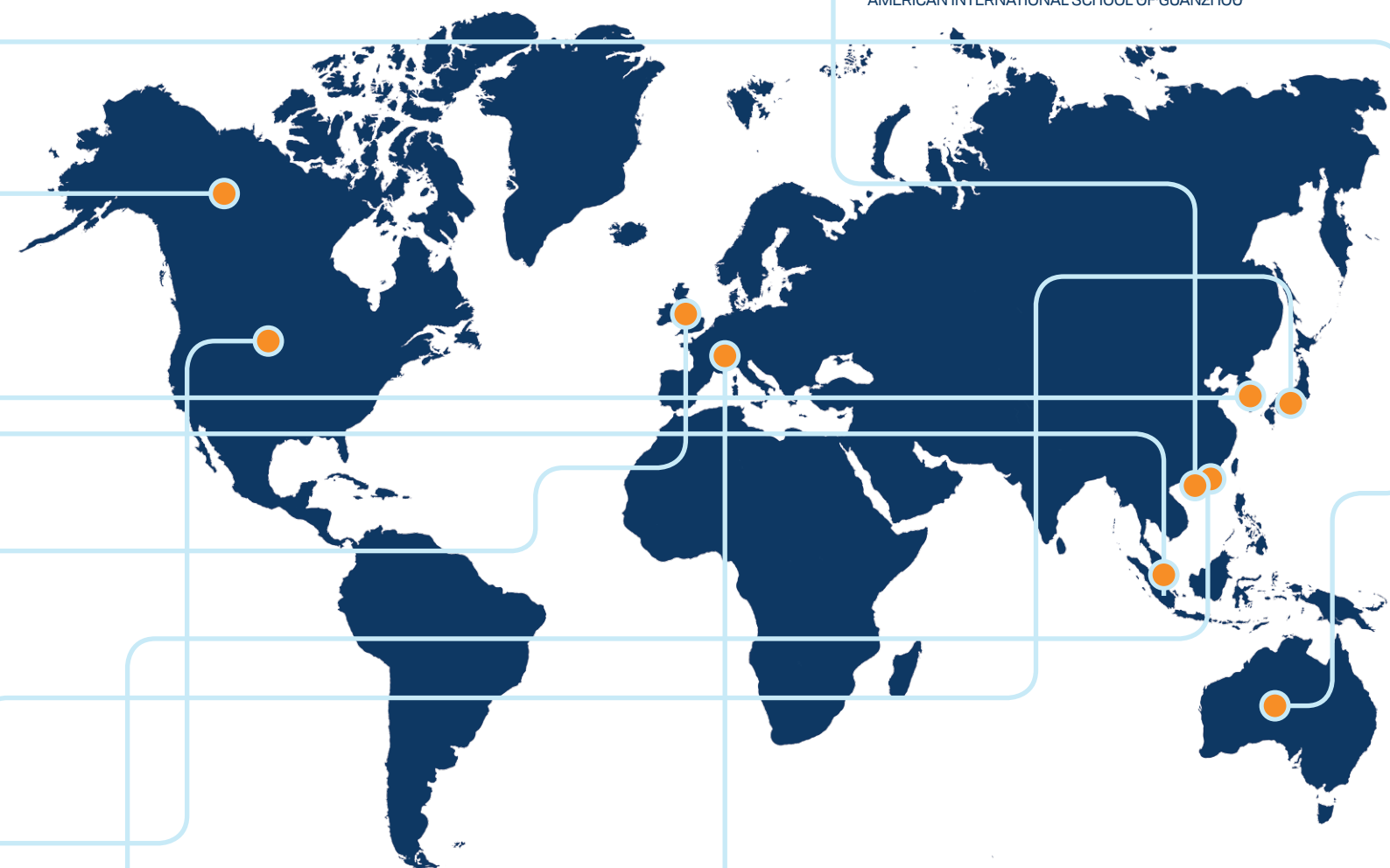


**“My time here at AISG has truly prepared me in so many ways for my adult future—not only with educational, semantic knowledge, but also the intangibles and soft skills, such as self-directed learning ability, presentation and speech skills, report writing skills, and plenty of leadership experiences.”**

GABRIEL JONGMIN KIM, CLASS OF 2020



# University Acceptances 2020



## Australia

University of Sydney

## Canada

Mount Allison University  
Queen's University  
Simon Fraser University  
The University of British Columbia - Vancouver  
University of Toronto - Mississauga  
University of Toronto - Scarborough  
University of Toronto - St. George  
University of Victoria  
University of Waterloo  
Western University

## Hong Kong

City University of Hong Kong  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
The University of Hong Kong

## Japan

International Christian University  
Keio University  
Sophia University  
The University of Tokyo  
Waseda University

## Macau

Macau University of Science & Technology

## Singapore

Lasalle College of Arts  
Nanyang Technological University  
National University of Singapore  
Singapore Management University

## South Korea

Korea University  
Seoul National University  
Sungkyunkwan University  
Yonsei University

## Switzerland

École Hôtelière de Lausanne

## United Kingdom

Coventry University  
Oxford Brookes University  
University College London  
University of Bath  
University of Brighton  
University of Bristol  
University of Leeds  
University of Southampton

## United States of America

Arizona State University-Tempe  
Boston University  
Brigham Young University-Idaho  
California Institute of the Arts  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
College of William and Mary  
Dickinson College  
Drexel University  
Elon University  
Emory & Henry College  
Fordham University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Iowa State University  
James Madison University  
Juniata College  
Lehigh University  
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College  
McDaniel College  
Miami University-Oxford  
Michigan State University  
New York School of Interior Design  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University-Main Campus  
Ohio University-Main Campus  
Old Dominion University

Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus  
Pennsylvania State University-Abington  
Pepperdine University  
Pratt Institute-Main Campus  
Purdue University-Main Campus  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
School of Visual Arts  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University  
Skidmore College  
SUNY at Fredonia  
Syracuse University  
The New School  
University of Arizona  
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 Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Delaware  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Lynchburg  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Maryland-Baltimore County  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
University of Massachusetts-Boston

University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth  
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Oregon  
University of Portland  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
University of Washington-Tacoma Campus  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Ursinus College  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

# After School Activities

One person  
with passion  
is better than  
forty people  
merely  
interested.

E. M. FORSTER

## Elementary School

### International Sister Cities Partnership Gala in Guangzhou

Our Elementary Choir and Orchestra groups got the opportunity to showcase their talents by performing the Jasmin Flower and Cherry Blossoms at the 40th-anniversary of the International Sister Cities Partnership Gala on November 1, 2019. A select group of 5 AISG students, all in national dress, opened the Gala with a beautiful rendition of Ode to Joy. The Gala was organized by the Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office and Guangzhou TV Station, and AISG was honored to be part of this historic event! Over 200 guests from 26 countries attended, along with Chinese government officials.



32  
art activities

100%  
student participation

152  
activities offered

449  
total students participated

57  
sports activities

35  
academic & social activities

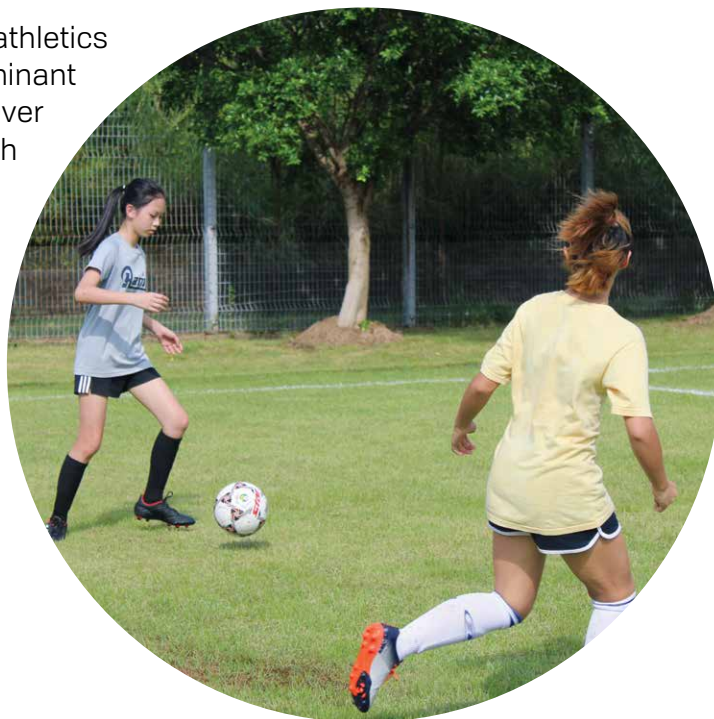
twenty-eight  
technology activities



## Middle School

### Girls Undefeated In Soccer & Touch Rugby

The Middle School girls' athletics dominated this year. In fact, so dominant that our girls' teams never lost! Over the course of the soccer and touch rugby seasons, the girls amassed an impressive 33-0 record and 5 championship trophies by winning the Guangzhou Cup Girls Soccer Tournament, the PRC Red Division Girls Soccer Tournament, the SDRC Girls Soccer Tournament, the PRC Red Division Girls Touch Rugby Tournament and the SDRC Girls Touch Rugby Tournament. Way to go girls!



19

interscholastic competitive teams

3

individual sports  
(cross country, swimming, badminton)

ten 

championship trophies won in the PRC, SDRC & GZ CUP

 3

team sports  
(soccer, touch rugby, volleyball)

6

sports were offered  
(soccer, touch rugby, volleyball, cross country, swimming, badminton)

147

games played for team sports

 5

performing & visual arts programs  
(band, theatre, choir, orchestra, dance)

100%

faculty involvement

eight

competitive sports  
(volleyball, basketball, soccer, tennis, cross country, swimming, table tennis, badminton)

18

community service programs

## High School

### APAC Volleyball Championship

Our Varsity Girls and Boys Volleyball teams finished 2nd and 3rd, respectively, at this year's APAC Championship in Kobe Japan, making it their second straight year placing at this event. This is an incredible accomplishment considering the caliber of the APAC Conference. It speaks volumes to the commitment and dedication of our student-athletes and our coaching staff.



HS & MS

## After School Activities

97%

student participation rate

197

homestays offered to visiting students from other International Schools in Asia

118

after school activities offered

# Innovation & Technology



## INNOVATION INITIATIVE

At AISG, we place an emphasis on using technology for “creation over consumption”. By giving students agency in their learning and promoting a maker’s mindset, teachers ensure every student is an empowered creator.



## Advancing Innovation and Technology in the Classroom

The Innovation and Technology team completed many projects in the first half of the school year that support AISG's innovation initiative. The Innovation and Technology team provided professional development to teachers along with their daily coaching on innovative ideas for the classroom. The team hosted their annual ed-tech conference, **EdTechGZ**. This year, the conference set another record with 425 educators from around China in attendance, up 18% from the previous year. The Innovation and

Technology team also drove the implementation process of the ISTE Standards for students and teachers. The ISTE standards are a framework for innovation in education, defining the digital-age skills needed for teaching and learning. Another notable achievement was the team's collaboration with the school's architects on the rollout of innovative learning spaces at the Science Park campus such as Pathfinder rooms, flexible furniture, and large touch screen TVs.

## Supporting Online and Hybrid Learning

The second semester profoundly changed the school year with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing AISG to close the campus until mid-May. While the campus may have been closed, the innovation initiative continued with the Innovation and Technology team taking on an even bigger role than before. With online learning, teachers used a variety of tools to move their lessons to the **Microsoft Teams** and **Seesaw** platforms while receiving support and professional development from

the team on how to do this efficiently and creatively. Some examples of the digital tools used in creative ways to conduct formative assessments and provide evidence of learning included **Microsoft Forms**, **Kahoot!**, **EdPuzzle**, **Quizlet**, **Nearpod**, **FlipGrid**, and **Microsoft Stream**. In May, half of the student body returned to campus and teachers continued to utilize video conferencing and their digital tools to offer hybrid learning for all students on and off campus.



edtechgz  
2020



# Innovation & Technology Highlights

## Elementary School

Elementary School students were empowered creators this year with so many tech-rich learning opportunities. AISG's littlest Rams used **green screen technology** to bring their imagination and play to life and learned early programming skills for a variety of coding activities for their math and units of inquiry. AISG's older Rams used design principles and more advanced technology platforms, such as **Adobe Spark**, **Keynote** and **Pages**, to solve problems and find multiple ways to connect their learning. All Elementary School students and teachers took their digital skills to new levels when the school went to online learning. Utilizing technology platforms such as **Seesaw**, **Zoom** and **Microsoft Teams**, students learned how to show evidence of their learning in multiple ways.

## Middle School

The maker's mindset of Middle School students was in full display this year and the extensive use of the **Innovation Lab** for classes and after school activities played a critical role. Classes such as Health, Science, Math and English came to the Innovation Lab for multiple projects to enhance their learning by allowing students to design, print, 3D model and code by using its various resources such as **robotic kits**, **3D printers**, **garment printers** and **vinyl cutters**, to name a few. After school activities that are focused on innovation and technology continued to grow in popularity with more students signed up to join the **Drone Club**, **Robotics Club** and **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Club**. These clubs offered great opportunities to create and explore, which included the Drone Club building their own drones out of **K'NEX®**, the Robotics Club being involved in their **FIRST® LEGO® League** and the **STEAM Club** making movies, creating clay sculptures, building computers, and making cardboard soda dispensers.

## High School

High School students continued to innovate, create and collaborate through technology. Students **designed and printed 3D models** of Voronoi diagrams to conceptualize their understanding of geometry. They also utilized **Padlet**, a digital platform to organize information and provide feedback, to share video projects in their **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** class and to create city travel plans in Mandarin. Additionally, students partnered with the developers of **Poly Up**, a 3D playground for learning math and gaining computational thinking skills, to use the app to create games and then provide feedback to the developers for improvements.

six

new **Pathfinder**  
innovative learning  
environments opened at  
Science Park campus

17

AISG teachers  
presented at **EdTechGZ**  
(+4 students)

100%

of faculty set goals around the new  
ISTE Standards for Educators

48

AISG faculty & staff  
attended the annual  
EdTechGZ conference

10

teachers and coaches  
participated in **ISTE**  
**Educator Certification**

90

students signed up for **after school activities**  
related to Innovation and Technology  
(*Drone Club, Robotics Club, STEAM Club*)

AISG co-hosted a  
**TeachMeet with 21st**  
**Century Learning** with

40+

teachers from the  
Guangzhou area

561

family members  
connected to  
**Seesaw**



# Community Service

Empowering our community to take action locally and globally to bring about positive change.

UNITE. CARE. ACT.



## Elementary School

AISG prides itself on giving back to our community and providing opportunities for our youngest Rams to learn through serving, learning, and helping others. This year our Elementary Rams hosted children from the Baiyun Community for fun and learning. We also collected food and money donations and delivered them to families in need in Guangzhou! We take service-learning seriously at AISG and are proud of the action our Elementary School students are taking to help their community.



10

**Saturdays** AISG welcomed children from the Baiyun Community to the Ersha campus to participate in learning and community development activities

twelve

**student council members** from AISG's 3rd-5th Grade led a charity drive to help the **Baiyun Community**

100

set of basic food supplies donated to families in need through the Baiyun Community

6,400<sub>RMB</sub>

was raised by AISG's Elementary for the **Baiyun Community** charitable drive around Chinese New Year

## Middle School

Middle School students dedicated service hours toward the well-being of our AISG community by building school spirit and raising awareness for school events. For instance, the Middle School Athletic Council organized and hosted the Middle School awards ceremony and collaborated with teachers in managing the popular Dynasty Challenges. Middle School students also played critical volunteer roles during large sports events, such as the British School interscholastic swim meet and the APAC cross country meet.



15

students are members of the  
Middle School Athletic Council

3

**Dynasty  
Challenges**  
successfully  
completed

TEN

**volunteers** at the  
interscholastic swim meet  
to support 100+ student  
competitors

10

**volunteers** at the APAC cross country  
meet to support 65 student competitors

18

**booths** at PTA  
Family Fun Day

24

**on-campus  
fundraisers**

47

High School **Student  
Coordinators**

sixteen

**booths** at PTA  
Holiday Bazaar

20

High School **Teacher  
Coordinators**

eighteen

High School **Community Service Groups**

## High School

AISG's High School Community Service is an important aspect of how we educate and develop future-ready individuals with compassion and empathy for others. This year AISG's High School students focused on giving back to the local community in a wide variety of service projects. Here are just a few of the many ways High School students gave their time, energy, and expertise:

- Organized activities for children in local schools
- Assisted with packaging emergency rations

- Sorted donated items for remote communities
- Visited the elderly
- Organized Guangzhou sightseeing for under-privileged girls
- Visited children receiving cancer treatment
- Built homes through Habitat for Humanity
- Supported local animal shelters
- Organized games at PTA schoolwide events
- Taught English to university students
- Organized talent shows for local schools
- Raised funds for local charities by selling bubble teas and baked goods



# Saturday

AT THE

# Library



Saturday at the Library is a time for families to enjoy the library and its resources.

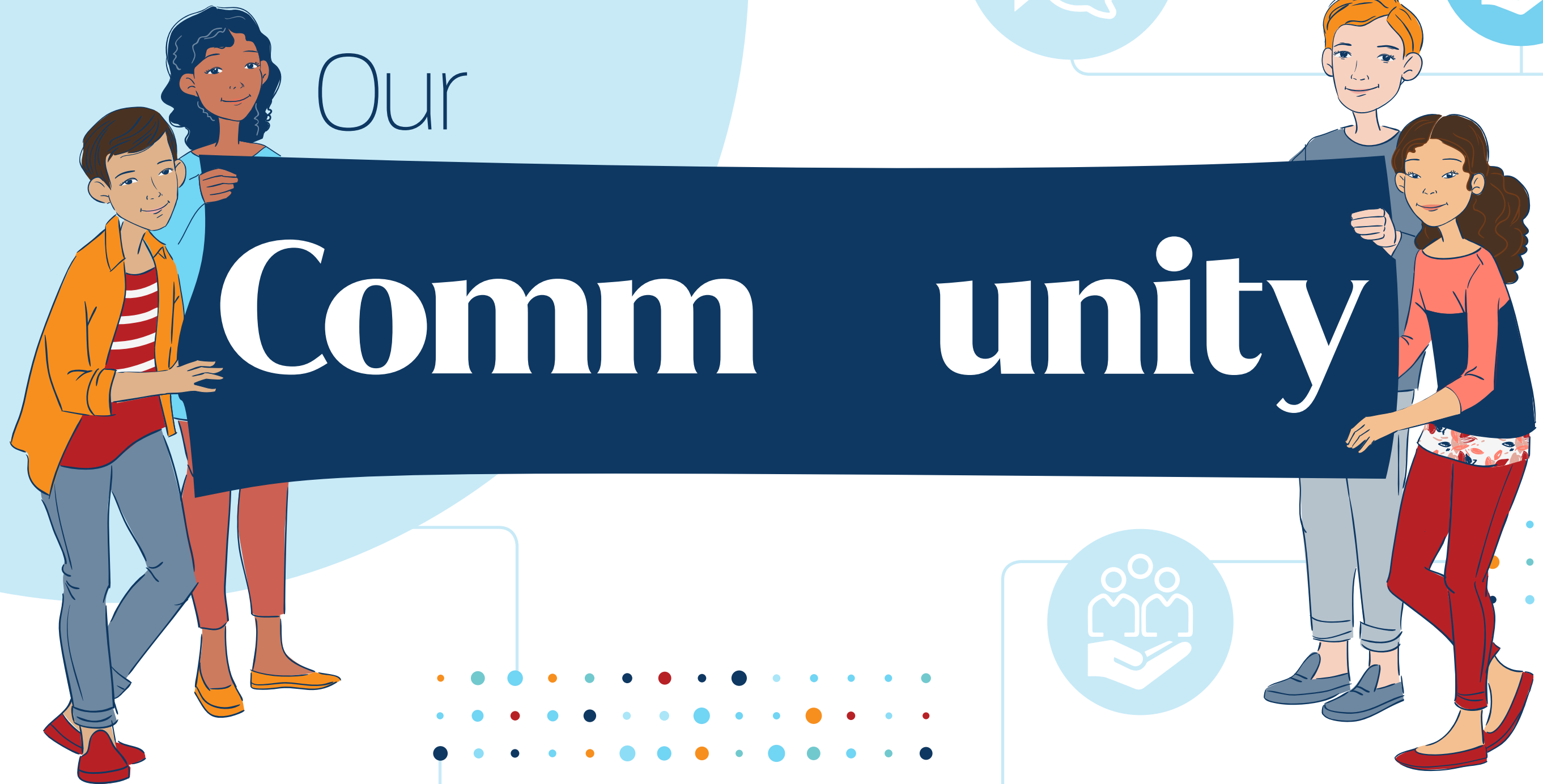
CAROLYN JEZIORSKI,  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
LIBRARIAN

**Saturday at the Library** is a popular weekend event on the Ersha campus. On several Saturdays throughout the school year, the library is open for families. Maker activities are set up for families to enjoy, including LEGO®, magnetic tiles, building tubes, and plastic cups. Parents and children curl up on beanbags in the loft and enjoy books together. Parents can set up library accounts so they can borrow books to take home. Teachers and administrators volunteer to be guest readers, sharing their favorite stories. Unfortunately, this event was canceled after the Chinese New Year due to the COVID-19 pandemic closing the campus, but we look forward to reintroducing this event in the upcoming school year once it is safe to do so.

#### This year's readers included:

**Tatz Lopukhin** - ES Principal, **Eric Crabtree** - ES Assistant Principal, **Krista Plank** - Kindergarten Teacher, **Amy Silverman** - Preschool Teacher, **Amy Lee** - Fourth Grade Teacher, **Jean Li** - ES Mandarin Teacher

SECTION 3





# AISG'S Annual Fund

AISG's Annual Fund is a school-led yearly fundraising effort where donations are received from the whole school community. Proceeds are used for extraordinary enrichment programs to increase the margin of excellence for the benefit of AISG students.

The 2019-2020 school year marked the second year of our successful Annual Fund Hóngbào Campaign. We received 286 gifts and enjoyed 29% participation from our community. We encouraged all members of our community to participate and stressed that a gift of any size makes a great difference. This is reflected in the fund's main message:

***It is important to give, not how much you give.***

Hóngbào means "red envelope" and the school created a red envelope decorated with student artwork to symbolize each donation. These envelopes were then hung on a peach blossom tree at the Science Park entrance for the community to enjoy and reflect on the beauty of giving. These envelopes were hung during the Chinese Lunar New Year that is also a holiday symbolizing a time to give.

Through the community's support, we can make our school an inspiring, dynamic, compassionate and connected community where students can thrive.

AXA XING,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF  
DEVELOPMENT





## ANNUAL FUND

# Speaker Series

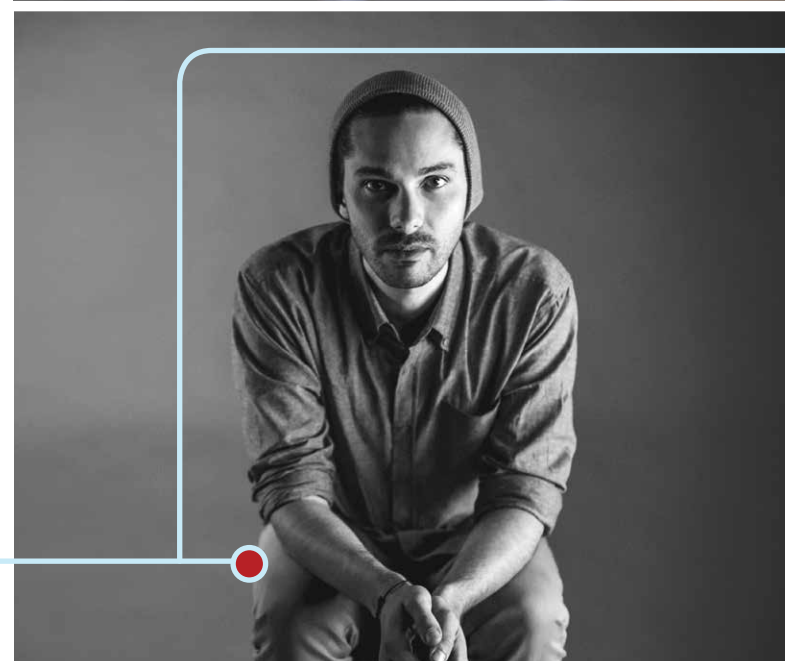
The Speaker Series Program brings fascinating people with captivating stories into our school to inspire, enlighten and transform learning for our students. Speakers are invited to AISG from all over the world, and through sharing their experiences, they will touch the minds and hearts of the members of the AISG Community. With the help of the PTA, AISG was able to arrange a few speakers before the campus closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their interaction with the students is guaranteed to have a lasting impact.

**Henry Evans - Climate Change Scientist****September 2019**

Henry is a British scientist who set up a science education organization in 2012 called Magnificent Ocean. During his visit at AISG, Henry gave an engaging presentation about environmental issues and his expedition to Antarctica, providing details, photos, and other visuals that had the kids sitting on the edge of their seats. As climate change continues to threaten our planet, Henry's work in schools becomes more and more relevant, not to mention, more necessary. He inspired AISG students to further their study about our planet's crisis and what we can do to change it.

**Luka Lesson - Slam Poet****January 2020**

In January 2020, Greek-Australian slam poet Luka Lesson spent a week with students on the AISG Science Park campus to help them find their unique voices through poetry. A spoken word expert and rapper, Lesson's creative work is often inspired by heritage, social consciousness, and advocating for marginalized groups. With Lesson, our Middle School students identified a current world problem and developed an individual "social justice poem" that they shared with passion in workshop groups. In High School, students focused in different sessions on diaspora, cultural identity, and the role of myth in telling their own stories. As Lesson says in his poem of the same name, "May your pen grace the page/at the same pace as your brain/may your grey matter from now on no longer be grey."

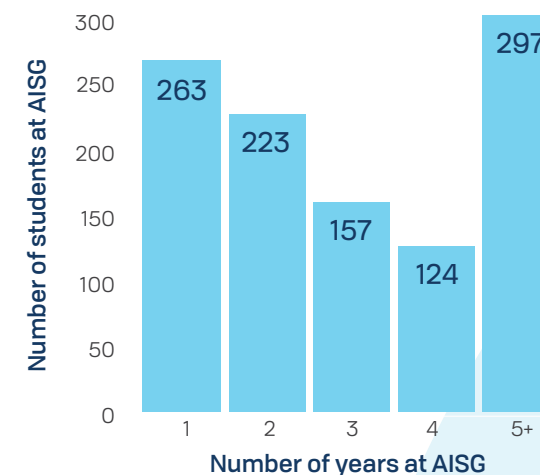




## OUR Students

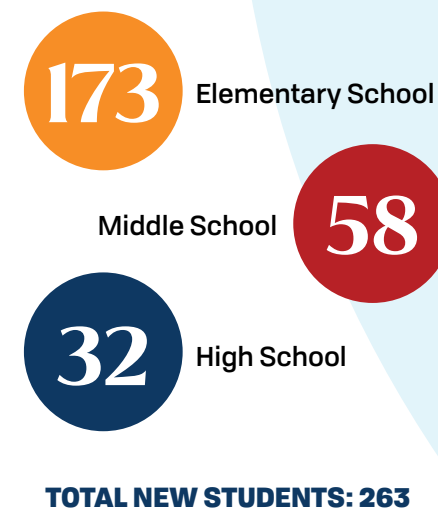
2019-2020 was the highest enrollment that AISG has had in its 39 years of existence with 1,064 students! A truly international environment with approximately 50 nationalities, AISG embraces multiculturalism, inclusiveness, and global mindedness.

Grade Level	No. of Students
P3	32
P4	53
Kindergarten	77
Grade 1	79
Grade 2	88
Grade 3	71
Grade 4	76
Grade 5	68
Grade 6	89
Grade 7	82
Grade 8	83
Grade 9	81
Grade 10	63
Grade 11	57
Grade 12	65
<b>TOTAL STUDENTS</b>	<b>1064</b>



  
**820**  
FAMILIES

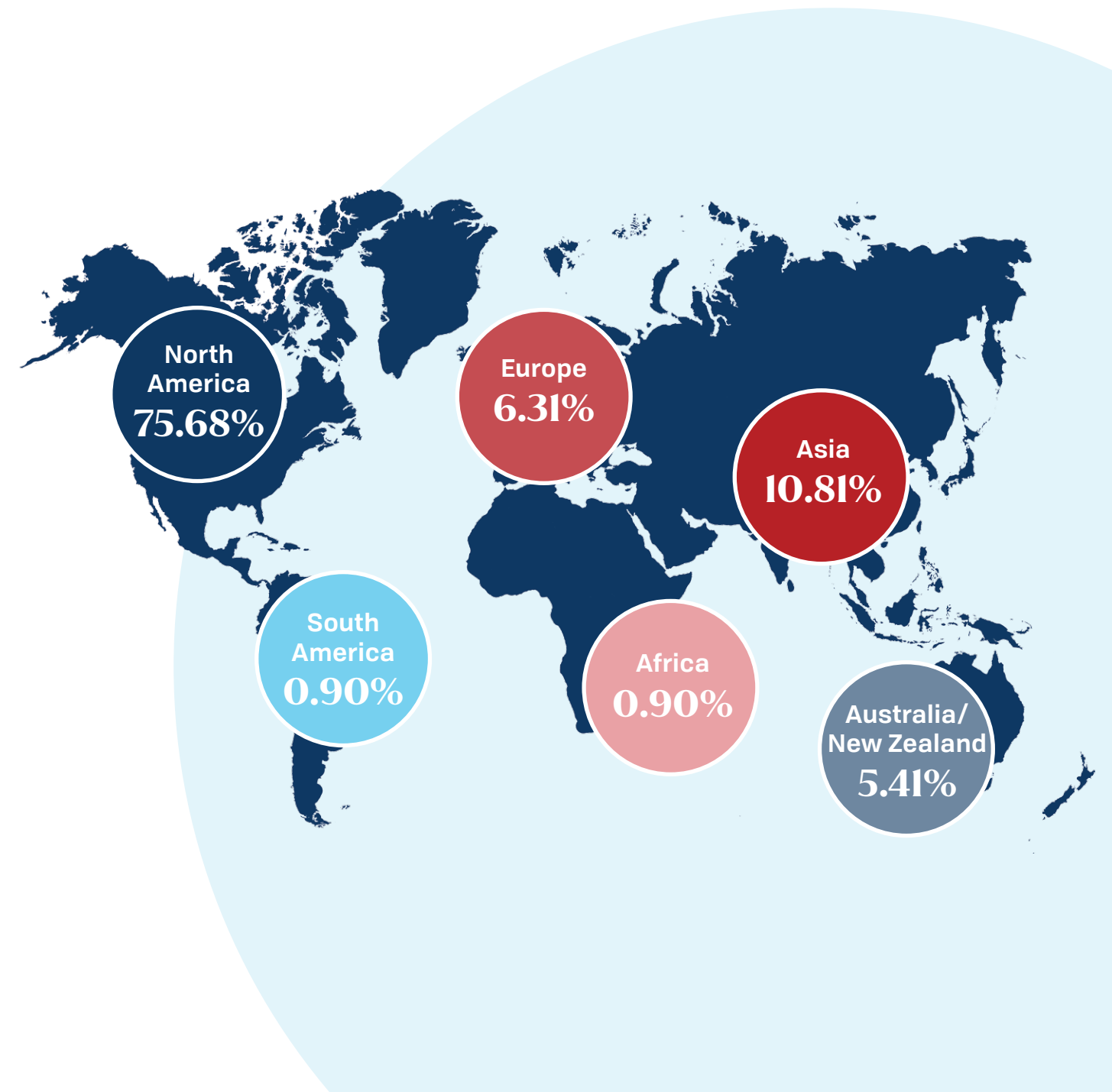
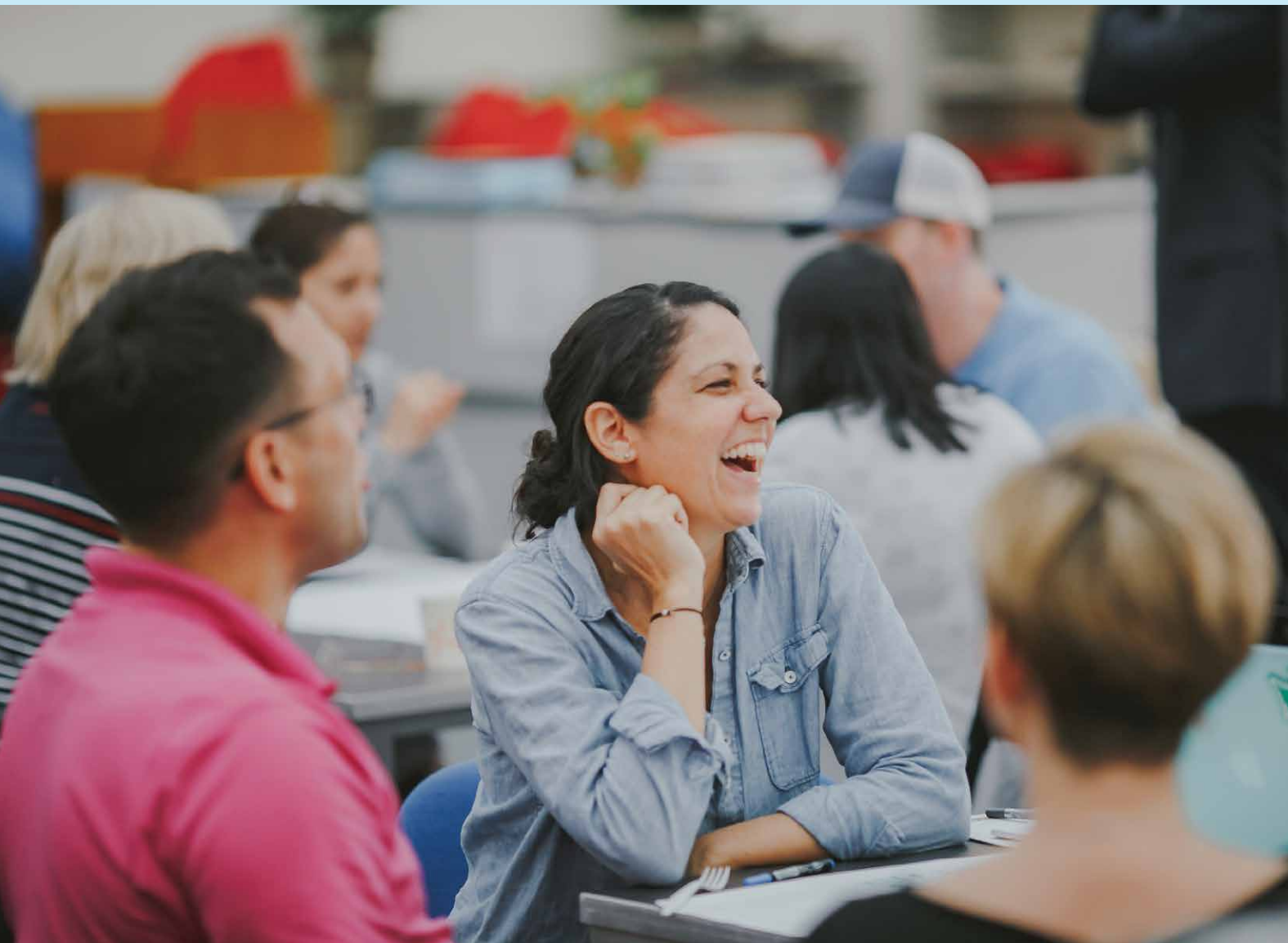
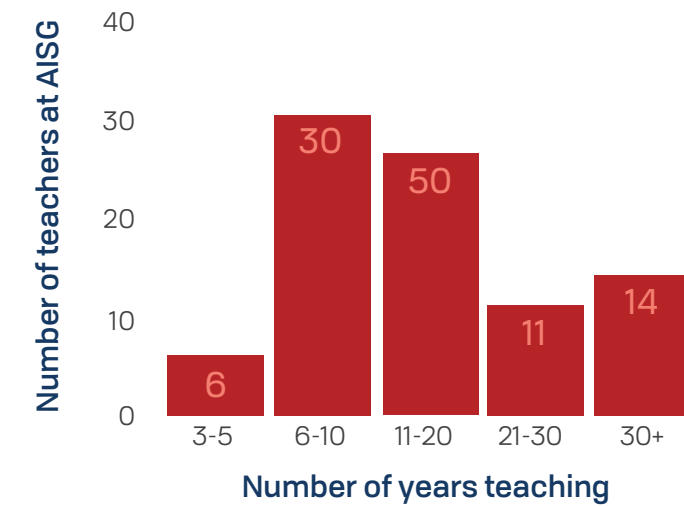
### new students



Passport Nationality	Number of Students
Antigua and Barbuda	1
Australia	58
Austria	1
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	2
Brazil	7
Cambodia	1
Canada	113
Denmark	5
Dominica	7
France	7
Germany	18
Guatemala	1
Guinea-Bissau	9
Hong Kong	213
India	27
Indonesia	6
Israel	7
Italy	2
Japan	18
Jordan	4
Korea	141
Macau	13
Malaysia	4
Mexico	5
Netherlands	1
New Zealand	16
Nigeria	1
Norway	1
Pakistan	2
Panama	1
Philippines	10
Poland	2
Russia	4
Seychelles	2
Singapore	9
Spain	3
St. Kitts and Nevis	3
Sweden	1
Taiwan	31
Turkey	1
UK	10
Ukraine	1
USA	288
Vanuatu	4
Venezuela	1
Vietnam	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1064</b>

## OUR Faculty

In 2019-2020 AISG welcomed 27 new educators to our family of 111 innovative and experienced faculty members. Nearly 73% of our faculty have attained their master's degrees, and more than 67% have over 11 years of experience in education.





# OUR Alumni

**Whether it is a student, a faculty or a staff member, the connection to the AISG community doesn't end once someone leaves. It's important to us that all alumni feel a positive impact from their time with AISG, no matter when they moved on, because **ONCE A RAM, ALWAYS A RAM.****



AISG makes diligent attempts to stay in touch with all alumni who spent time at the school: graduates, students, faculty and staff. The very first satellite Alumni Reunion was held on February 9, 2020 in San Francisco where Director Kevin Baker was

pleased to meet with graduates and former faculty. AISG encourages all Alumni to keep the school updated on where they are and what they are doing by connecting on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and the AISG Alumni website.





## OUR PTA

The AISG Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was instrumental in bringing the community together in 2019-2020. During the first semester, the PTA hosted several successful events that set a positive and enthusiastic tone about being a part of the AISG community. This strong sense of community was the momentum needed for the second semester when the COVID-19 pandemic changed almost everything. What it didn't change was our community spirit and how our PTA brought everyone together.



In fact, it made us stronger and more connected. In collaboration with the administration, the PTA managed a respectful and reliable process of collecting feedback from the community on improvements, ideas about how to move forward

and ways to motivate our students. The PTA helped the community collectively prepare our students to be future-ready, which has proven to be more essential during these unprecedented times.



## Family Fun Day

With the help from faculty and students, the PTA hosted an incredible fun-for-all-ages circus-themed Family Fun Day in September 2019 with more than 500 community members in attendance. 26 student groups organized a bake sale alongside various games and activities, including face-painting, ball games, hoops, water balloons, and much more. There were also Family Fun races, including popcorn relays and tug-o-war. One of the many highlights of the day was the (now) annual Pie Face competition in which both Elementary School Principal, Ms. Tatz, and School Director, Kevin Baker, ended up pie-faced!





## Holiday Bazaar

This year's Holiday Bazaar in December 2019 was PTA's most successful Bazaar to date. With a total of 86 community vendors and 21 of our Middle and High School student groups, the Holiday Bazaar raised over 140,000 RMB to help fund PTA-sponsored school events and causes, with a portion being donated for scholarships to 15 underprivileged girls in the Shaoguan, Guangdong province. The day was spent enjoying fantastic food and entertainment, including AISG's elementary choir and orchestra. Santa Claus even made an appearance and kids lined up to have their photo taken with him. Holiday spirit was all around!



## Chinese Cultural Day

The PTA hosted their annual Chinese Cultural Day on both campuses in January 2020. At the Ersha Campus, it was a day of cultural education with the explanation of the four Chinese dynasties and a large sampling of traditional Chinese food. AISG's Elementary students and parents performed folk dances and music, and to our surprise, the God of Fortune made a guest appearance. At the Science Park campus, the celebration started with the students re-educating themselves with quizzes and fun facts about the culture of the Chinese New Year celebration and ended with a thrilling High Pile Lion Dance. The day was absolutely magical and was truly enjoyed by the students, parents and teachers alike!





**130+**

hard-working **volunteers**

**300,000**

RMB raised

**3**

**new Ramshack products:**  
newly designed tote bags, coffee  
cups and winter Elementary  
School PE uniforms

**145,000**RMB

**directly invested back into the school** through author visits,  
student grants, parent events, cultural days and parent workshops

**6**

**countries represented  
on the 9-member  
board:** Austria, Australia,  
Canada, China, Indonesia  
and the US

**15**

**Shaoguan students were  
supported by GIN** (Global  
Issues Network), one of the  
High School student groups,  
with the assistance of the PTA.  
*This is the biggest number of  
students to date*

**nine**

**SUCCESSFUL EVENTS** during Semester 1:

*Family Fun Day, 3 Coffee Connections, AFP Parent Talk, Holiday Bazaar,  
Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Parent-Teacher Mixer, Chinese Cultural Day*

**two-hundred+**

**hoodies sold** by  
The Ramshack within the  
first month of school

**42%**

**of the funds were raised  
by student groups**

**PTA Board**

**Tania Walla** – PTA President, **Jiajia Ou** – Treasurer, **Katie Hill** – Secretary,  
**Sara Matthews** – Volunteer Coordinator, **Christina Weber** – Ramshack Coordinator,  
**Amy Cen** – Ramshack Coordinator (Science Park), **Anita Feng** – Elementary School  
Liaison, **Tess Cai** – Middle School Liaison, **Ling Wang** – High School Liaison



**Diversity truly defines our  
community, and the PTA  
embraces every culture, every  
difference, and every unique  
trait that is represented at our  
school. We appreciate how  
wonderful the world is in its  
full color.**

**TANIA WALLA,  
PTA PRESIDENT**



SECTION 4

# Support Systems & RESOURCES





# Facilities & Operations

**The members of our Facilities and Operations departments are in many ways our behind the scenes heroes of the 2019-2020 school year.**

Their monumental efforts ensured that our Master Facility Plan remained on schedule despite the temporary break in construction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They continued to create flexible and collaborative learning spaces with new furniture and equipment. Air

quality was improved with 'smart' air quality monitoring devices and a plan was developed to increase air circulation in the classrooms with filtered intake fans for the upcoming school year. Lastly and most notably, when the campus reopened in the late spring, the operations team underwent intense training and took meticulous measures to ensure that our campus was safe by disinfecting surfaces, installing hand washing stations, changing the process for food packaging and delivery in the cafeteria, adjusting the bus seating and establishing a new medical protocol if someone is ill, to just name a few.

**2**

new outdoor meters

**One**

new MPR (Ersha) floor

**12**

'Smart' air quality meters

**two**

additional Chinese classrooms

**6**

New 75" touch screen TVs

SCIENCE PARK  
HELPDESK

**3,327**  
requests

average 17 requests  
per day

ERSHA  
HELPDESK

**2,430**  
requests

average 10 requests  
per day

**Return to Campus Safety Improvements**

**263**

Handwashing  
Stations

**97**

Thermometers

**3x**

Classroom  
cleanings per day

**1x**

Classroom deep  
cleans per day

**Summer Works**

**7**

projects

**7,248**

man-hours

**zero**

accidents

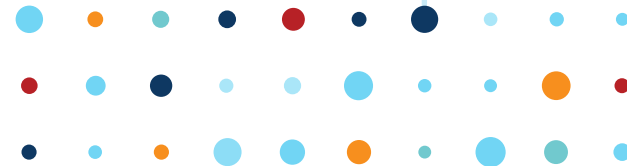


# Communications

**The Communications department played an essential role during the 2019-2020 school year.**

In addition to keeping the AISG community connected with messages and stories about school events, the Communications department was committed to providing regular, factual, and verified information regarding the management of

the COVID-19 crisis. Delivery of this commitment was done within an easy to understand format of categorizing the information into four distinct categories: "what we currently know", "what we have done", "what we are currently preparing for", and "what we need to be thinking about". This allowed for a strategic method of communication that provided much-needed transparency and clarity to support our community during the crisis.



## Publication Highlights

### Annual Report:

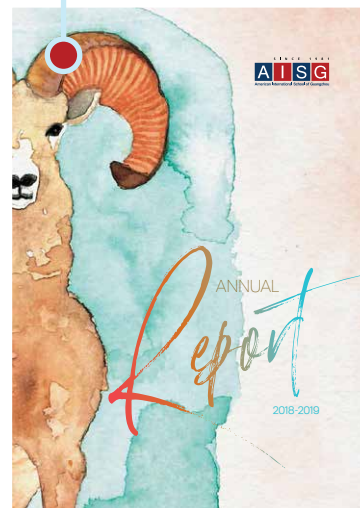
AISG recapped the 2018-2019 School Year with a look into our Board, Master Facilities Plan, Academics, PTA and much more. The Annual Report also covered the impacts and achievements of every department that managed to make the school year a success.

### AISG eNews:

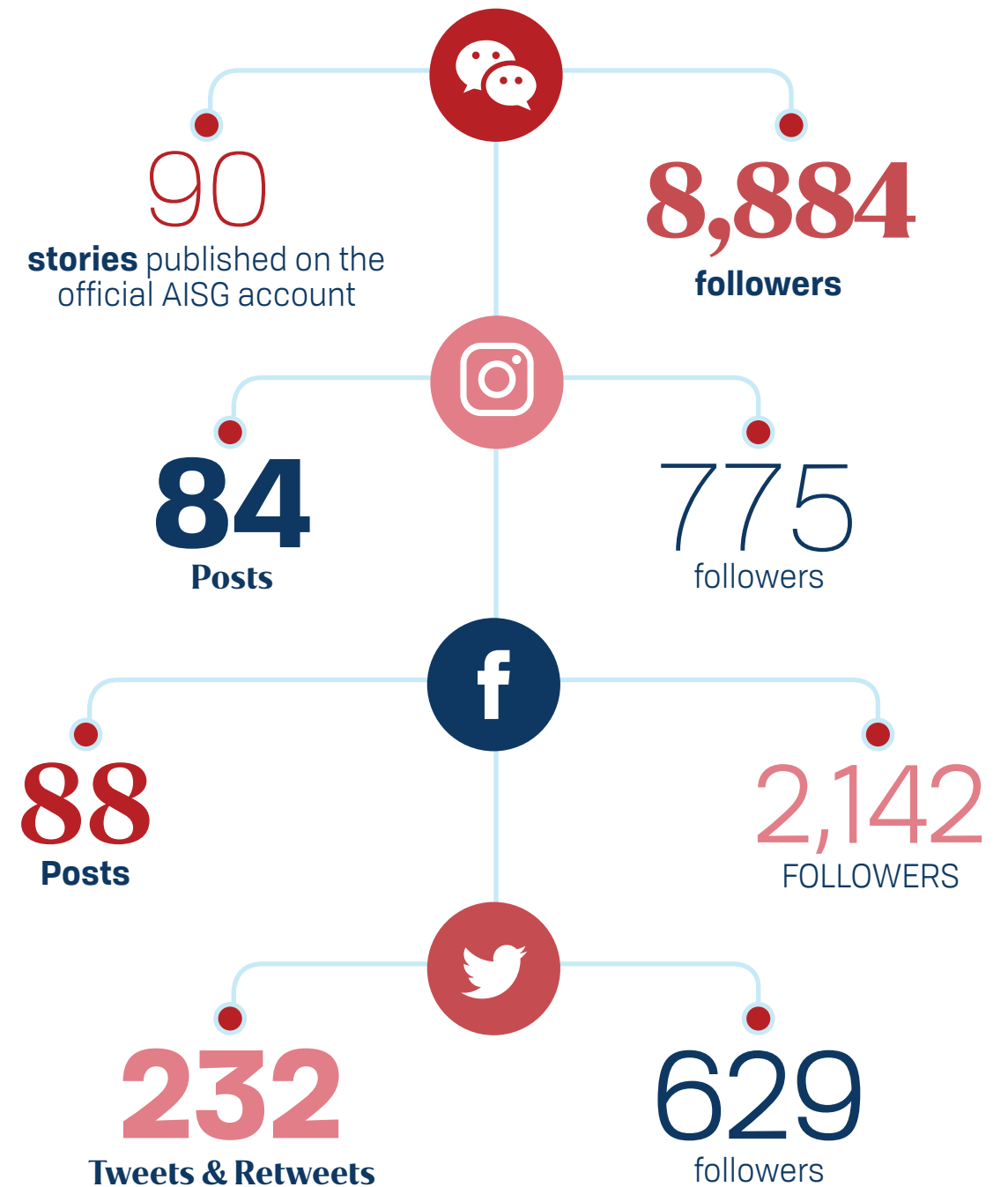
By requesting content from the faculty, AISG published a bi-weekly newsletter by e-mail that reached all faculty, staff and parents, informing the AISG community of what the school has accomplished and what is coming up in the following weeks. The eNews ensured that we stayed informed as a Connected Community.

### Director's Messages:

Once the COVID-19 crisis hit AISG, the eNews was replaced with frequent messages from the Director in the form of Parent Informational Updates, Director's Video Messages, and RamNation Wrap Up Video Messages. The Director's frequent communication fostered solidarity and rose the spirits of the RamNation during the uncertain times of COVID-19.



## Communication Channels



**six**  
eNews emails

**15**  
Featured News stories on website

**32**  
Director's messages



# Finances

**AISG is one of few non-profit schools in China. Its organization and structure enhance the school's responsibility to be good stewards of its resources.**

Accordingly, the School Board that serves without remuneration governs the school. Financial surpluses, if any, are used for the betterment of the school. The School Board provides financial oversight through the Finance Committee, which is chaired by the Board's Treasurer, and includes members and parents

experienced in tax and financial matters.

The Director of Finance and Operations works under the guidance of the School Director, implements the decisions of the board and its committees, and ensures that resources are managed efficiently and responsibly. School operations comply with high standards of financial accountability and transparency. Annually, AISG hires an international firm of auditors to conduct an external audit. Their report, along with the school's financial statements, is presented at the bi-annual American School Association of Guangzhou (ASAG) meeting in October.

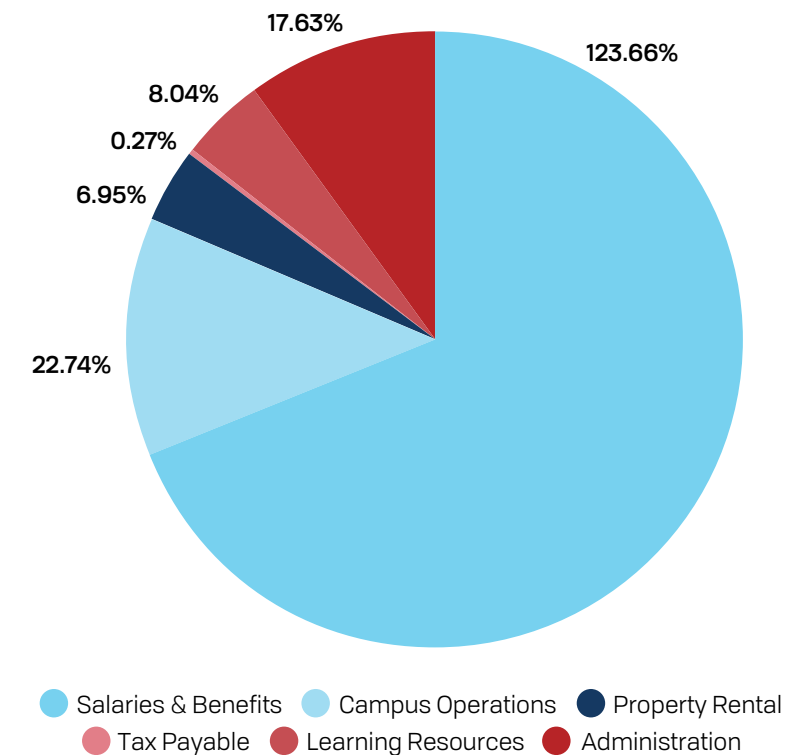
## Financial Review

We are pleased to report that our audited financial results for the 2019-2020 school year compare well to the budget approved by the board in March 2019. Interest income was higher than budgeted and operating expenses were within budget despite the unexpected additional costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The overall operating surplus of nearly 19 Million RMB (\$2.7 Million USD) was 9.2% of actual revenues.

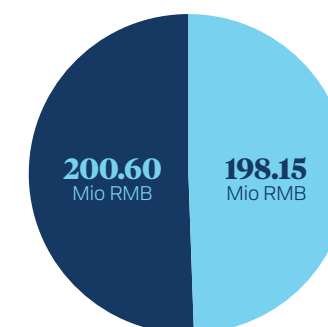
## Planned Reserves

As one of few non-profit independent schools in China, AISG carefully manages the resources entrusted to their current and former families. AISG's total reserves are intended to ensure its long-term financial health; the emergency reserves provide a safety net in case of an unexpected decline in enrollment, while the capital reserves underpin the school's long-term facilities plan. The total value of the school's reserves as of June 30, 2020 was 345 Million RMB (\$48.8 Million USD).

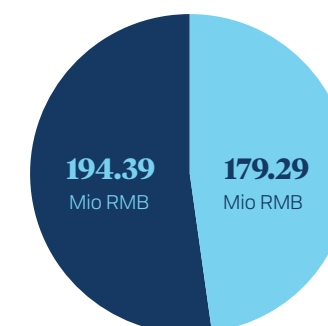
## Operating Expenses



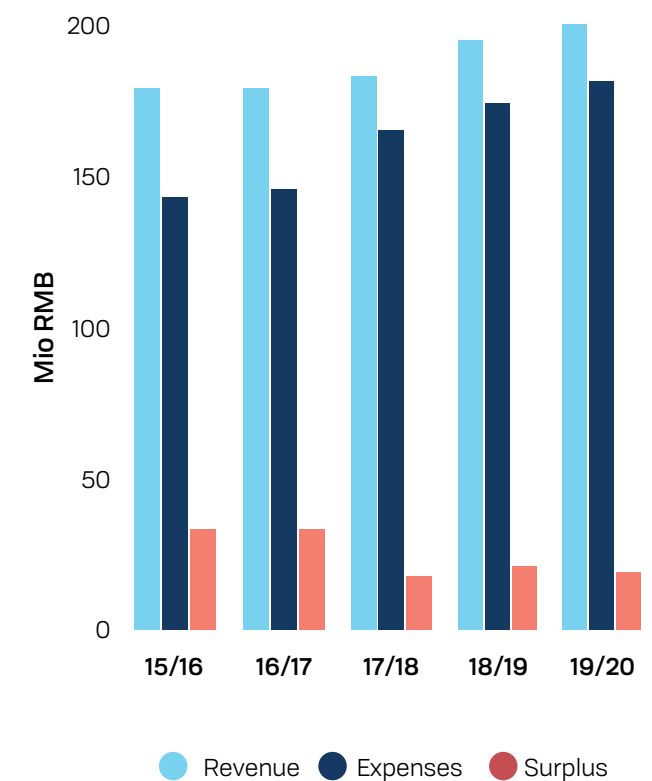
## Operating Revenues



## Operating Expenses



## Operating Fund





SECTION 5



## HOW AISG MANAGED THE COVID-19 Crisis

AISG, along with other schools in China, was the first to encounter the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak that quickly turned into a pandemic.

The crisis took hold during the Chinese New Year holiday, the most popular holiday in China, when many people traveled outside of the Mainland. In efforts to quickly contain the virus, the Chinese authorities closed its borders and extended the holiday so that schools and businesses could remain closed. This resulted in our AISG community displaced around the world, which was a unique situation in comparison to other countries who

made similar decisions. Some were not able to return to China for quite some time and many could not return for the remainder of the school year. This crisis brought many hardships to schools and businesses around the world, but AISG prevailed with our strong leadership and full support of our community. The need for resilience and the ability to adapt were collectively adopted alongside the vision that AISG will emerge stronger as a result.

### Guangdong Province\*

1,745  
1,676  
8

CONFIRMED

RECOVERED

DEATHS

### Guangzhou†

642  
631  
1

01/21/2020

**first confirmed case** reported in Guangzhou

Jan 23, 2020

**Masks required.** Chinese New Year **holiday extended.** Businesses remained **closed**

FEB 17, 2020

**Businesses reopened** with restrictions

04.27.2020

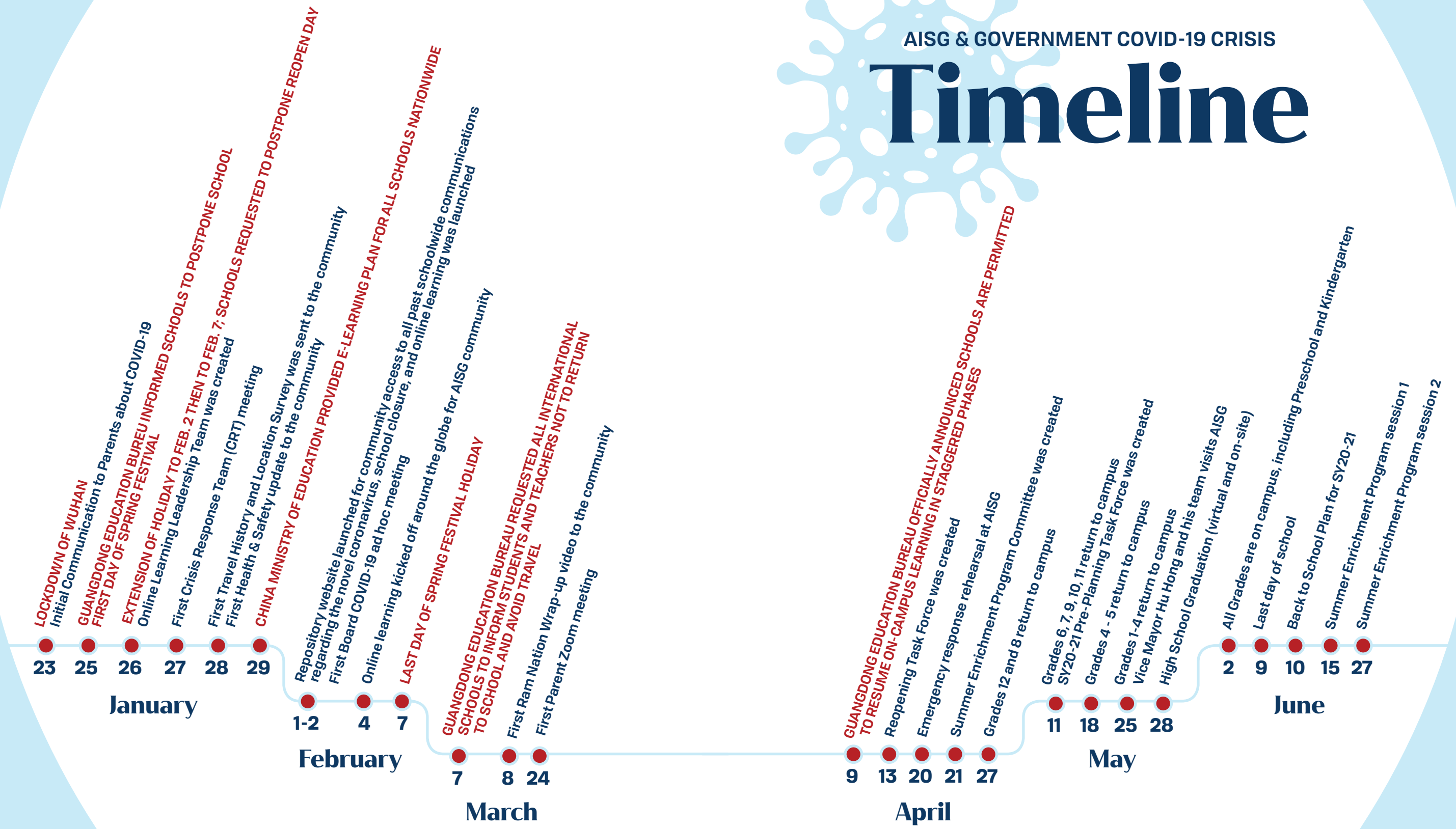
**Schools started reopening** in staggered phases

\* Guangdong Government Official Website, September 3, 2020  
† GZ Government Official Website, August 30, 2020





# AISG & GOVERNMENT COVID-19 CRISIS Timeline



**GOVERNMENT TIMELINE**  
AISG Timeline

Government sources: Guangdong Education Bureau and Ministry of Education of the PRC  
\*COVID-19 in Guangzhou as of August 17, 2020



# Crisis Response Team

On January 27, 2020, the Crisis Response Team (CRT) held their first meeting of many to formulate a cohesive and responsive plan to address the fast-moving developments of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was also a monumental feat of coordination with the team displaced across the world in different timezones. The CRT's leadership was instrumental in keeping our AISG community informed with fact-based information and ensuring that all decisions were transparent and understood. The learning and operational plans that were implemented during the crisis by the CRT addressed the needs of our AISG community in a very short time. The CRT also managed the successful staggered reopening of our campus and the launch of the very well attended Summer Enrichment Program.



## Crisis Response Team

ROW ONE: **Kevin Baker** – Director, **Robert Bauer** – Director of Innovation & Technology, **Rick Bunnell** – Middle School Principal, **Shirley Chan** – Director of Human Resources, **Dirk de Jager** – Director of Finance & Operations, **Ian Hogg** – Director of Facilities

ROW TWO: **Tatz Lopukhin**, Elementary School Principal, **Sanja Ilic** – Director of Admissions, **Kerry Timmerman** – High School Principal, **Zoe Timms** – Director of Communications & Advancement





# Summer Enrichment Program

**The Summer Enrichment Program was a free program offered to AISG students as an extension to their learning in response to the school's closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provided opportunities to explore, create and learn in a fun, safe, and social environment.**

There were two, two-week sessions, one from June 15 through June 26 and the other from July 27 through August 7. The program offered both on-campus and online courses to Preschool through Grade 11 students and both were well attended with a total of 570 students.

The Summer Enrichment Program offered many diverse courses for our Elementary School

students, such as STEM Challenges, Storytelling, Learning Plus, Language Arts, and Art and Movement. For Middle School and High School students, many interesting courses were also offered, such as Behavioral Psychology, Studio Art, Business Studies, Writing and Editing, and Innovation and Design.

Hiromi Sawamura, who led this program and is also an AISG Elementary School Counselor, says, "I feel very fortunate that we were able to hold the Summer Enrichment Program during this unique time. It was made possible by the concerted effort of all the staff and teachers, who were both on the ground and online. Looking back, the program was organized only one month into the school reopening. It was amazing how we were able to pull together all the available resources and provide students, both within Guangzhou and outside of China, a valuable learning experience. I hope it has been a memorable summer for our students as it certainly has to me."





# Reflections from the Community

*"You never know if you are ready for the future until it arrives, often unannounced. Times of crisis are always moments where the true heart of a community shines forth. It is often times like this that communities crumble and fracture, but not our AISG family! Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the care, compassion, and dynamic nature of our community shined the brightest. Not only have we emerged stronger together, we have been a beacon of hope, resilience and courage for others. RamNation did not just survive, we thrived and excelled in one of the darkest times of our generation. I am so proud of our entire AISG family! Go Rams!"*

KEVIN BAKER, DIRECTOR

**"The 2019-20 school year was one that will not soon be forgotten. But through it all, our students persevered and had a wonderful year!"**

KERRY TIMMERMAN,  
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

**"Throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic our teachers and students became experts at using technology to effectively communicate and transcend their learning with peers around the world. This experience and the skills that were developed as a result of this crisis, will have an everlasting impact."**

ROBERT BAUER,  
DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION  
& TECHNOLOGY/  
CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM MEMBER

**"Our Ram nation has shown itself to be so strong and adaptable during the past school year. I am so proud of our students, parents, and teachers for their amazing work. Our Connected Community has prevailed in the face of the challenge of COVID-19!"**

TATZ LOPUKHIN, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

**"At the end of the day, we can appreciate what COVID-19 has given us. It gave our school and community a new learning plan and time to reconnect and re-strategize on how to help our students be MORE future-ready."**

PTA BOARD

*"The biggest challenge for me was managing my academics. In the beginning, it was challenging to get used to online lessons and study from my computer screen. To overcome this, I handwrote my own study guides and tried to practice solving questions as much as possible. I also made a new way to organize and prioritize my work, which helped make things easier."*

MIKU MAKINA, CLASS OF 2020

**"Challenges are what makes life interesting, overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. It was quite a year!"**

RICK BUNNELL,  
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

**"The experience has been challenging in many ways; however, it has also given us an opportunity for growth in many ways. I saw students increase their technology skills exponentially and learn new ways of working together and developing community from afar. Most importantly, it helped us all develop a 'we' mindset instead of a 'me' mindset. The coming together of teachers, staff, parents, and students during this time was so powerful, and I am grateful that this unfortunate circumstance showed us just how strong we are as an AISG community!"**

JESSICA PHILLIPS, GRADE 1 TEACHER

**"The COVID-19 global pandemic challenged teachers and students alike to stretch beyond the classroom and connect in new and meaningful ways. But, while the circumstances may have changed, learning had not. Our students showed amazing resilience and adaptability, and we teachers pushed the boundaries of what we knew was possible. I think it's safe to say, we all came out of this better than we were before."**

RUSSELL PHILLIPS, GRADE 4 TEACHER



# AISG during the Pandemic in Numbers

30

meetings held by the **Crisis Response Team**

4

**countries** where the Crisis Response Team was located: USA, Australia, Thailand and the Netherlands

46

**communications** sent **from the Director** to the parents regarding COVID-19 updates

sixty-eight

**communications** sent related to the **Summer Enrichment Learning Plan**

262

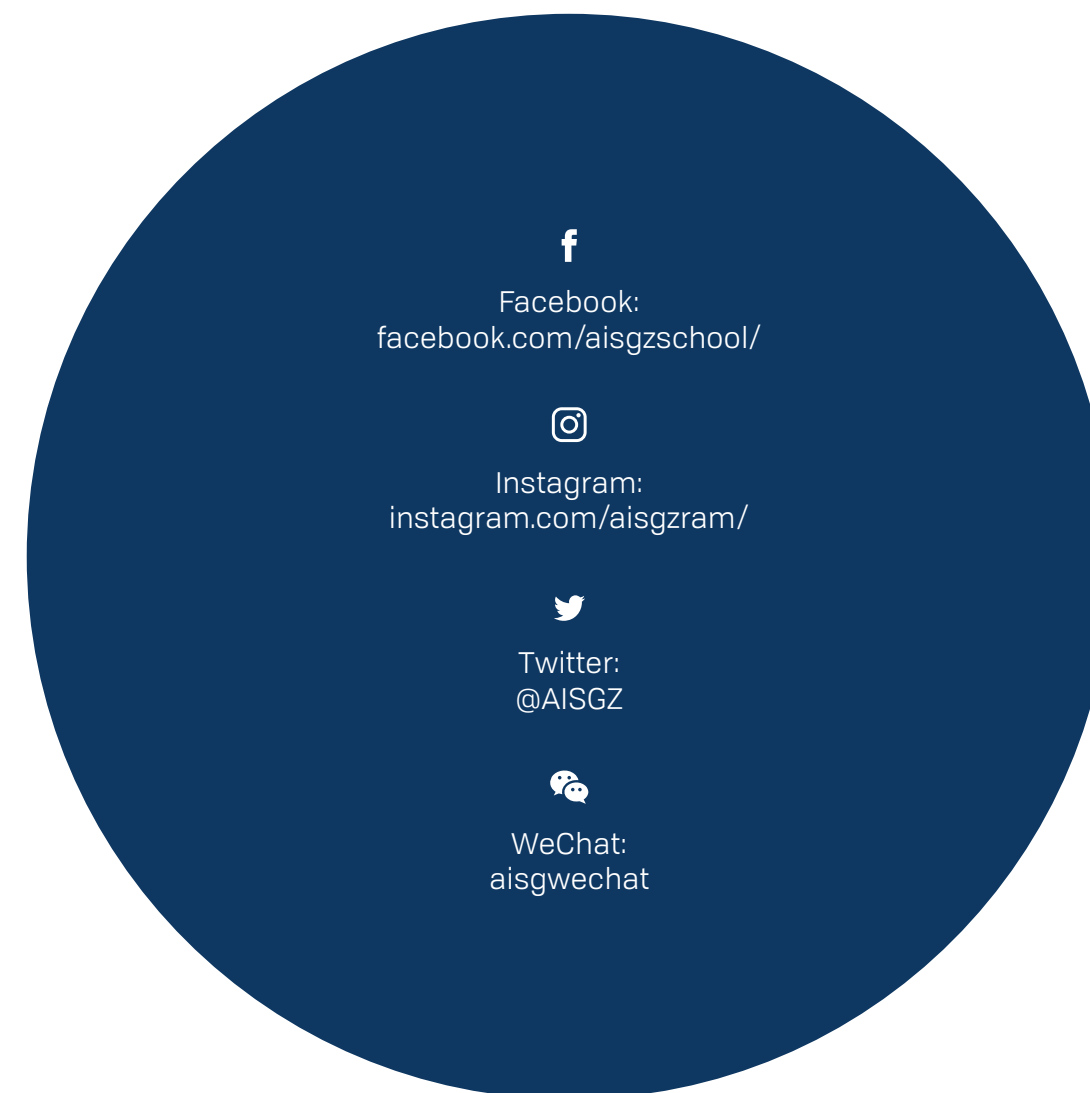
**students displaced** outside of China when the borders closed

81

**faculty displaced** outside of China when the borders closed

570

**students** attended the **Summer Enrichment Program**, both on campus and online





**to nurture  
future-ready  
individuals to  
aspire, achieve  
& contribute.**



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