

# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## LOWER SCHOOL

Grades 1 – 5



### INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) Continuum World School, SCIS is authorized to deliver the Primary Years Programme (PYP). The IB PYP is an integrated curriculum that is relevant, challenging and engaging for learners from Nursery to Grade 5. It is an inquiry-driven, concept-based curriculum framework that actively encourages students to ask questions and seek answers to the world around them.

Inquiry-based learning involves:

- Exploring, wondering and questioning;
- Experimenting and playing with possibilities;
- Making connections between previous learning and current learning;
- Making predictions and acting purposefully to see what happens;
- Collecting data and reporting findings;
- Clarifying existing ideas and reappraising perceptions of events;
- Deepening understanding through the application of a concept;
- Developing and testing theories;
- Researching and seeking information;
- Taking and defending a position;
- Solving problems in a variety of ways

### RELEVANT, REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Much of the curriculum is arranged and taught through large cross-curricular units of study known as Units of Inquiry. The unit themes are:

#### Who we Are:

An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

#### Where we are in Place and Time:

An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.

#### How we Express Ourselves:

An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

#### How the World Works:

An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.

#### How we Organize Ourselves:

An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

#### Sharing the Planet:

An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; and the relationship within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

### RIGOROUS ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The SCIS curriculum adheres to North American standards, selected for their academic rigor, conceptual foundations, and overall compatibility to the PYP. They are delivered within the inquiry-based framework of the PYP.

# THE BEST OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

All curriculum areas are integrated and connected through the Programme of Inquiry. The homeroom teacher is responsible for teaching core learning subjects, while specialist teachers are responsible for teaching specialist subjects. The learning subjects include:



## English Language Arts

SCIS prepares students to become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and active contributors to a global society. Teachers guide students in developing an appreciation for the English language and help them build confidence in their essential English and literacy skills.

*Standards: Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (USA)*



## Mandarin

SCIS emphasizes the importance of our host-country language and culture. Mandarin language learning is offered daily through a developmentally designed and leveled program, with classes ranging from beginner to experienced. Students for whom Mandarin is their native language or are near native speakers are placed in the experienced Mandarin class.

*Standards: Shanghai Ministry of Education (China)*



## English as an Additional Language

SCIS empowers students by providing them with opportunities to develop as effective communicators and to build confidence in the use of English language. A variety of instructional strategies are implemented to support our English language learners; including but not limited to, direct and indirect support through the EAL program, in class assistance, and program modifications.

*Standards: WIDA English Language Development Standards (USA)*



## Technology Integration

SCIS seeks to integrate technology as tools for learning, research, communication and creative expression. This includes students being active innovators and designers that engage in authentic learning experiences which allow them to create original designs, products and devices.

*Standards: International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards (USA)*



## Mathematics

SCIS provides constructive opportunities for students to be challenged and supported to think deeply about the problems they are solving. Our program supports the development of critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration skills, as students are continually encouraged to explore, extend, explain and evaluate their mathematical thinking through open-ended problem solving and questioning.

*Standards: Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (USA)*



## Visual and Performing Arts

SCIS believe that a strong arts education enhances academic performance in other disciplines and impacts a range of important developmental skills and understandings. We also believe that students learn best when they are in an environment where they are encouraged to take risks and learn new things; therefore, we aim to not only develop technical and expressive competencies, but to build confidence so that students see themselves as capable artists, performers and musicians.

*Standards: National Core Art and Music Standards (USA)*



## Science

SCIS fosters students' curiosity about the physical and natural world. Our program supports the development of critical thinkers, who seek evidence to support claims. Students are encouraged to see themselves as scientists, who understand that collaboration and social construction of knowledge are essential aspects of this discipline.

*Standards: Ontario Ministry of Education Science Standards (Canada)*



## Physical Education

SCIS focuses on the development of individual well-being through the integration of specific concepts, knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The program content is organized into four main areas: living skills, active living, movement competence, and healthy living.

*Standards: Ontario Ministry of Education Physical Education Standards (Canada)*



## Social Studies

SCIS implements an inquiry-based methodology, where teachers and students explore a wide range of significant, relevant and engaging social studies themes and topics. Teachers encourage students to formulate an understanding of their personal and cultural identities, as well as those of others in order to promote intercultural awareness and respect for individuals, their values and traditions.

*Standards: American Education Reaches Out (AERO) Social Studies Standards (USA)*

## After School Activities Program

SCIS provides students with the opportunity to develop skills, friendships, and pursue shared interests and passions beyond the classroom. SCIS offers over 75 different after school activities, including school-sponsored activities, as well as access to external organizations, groups and specialist vendors.

- Athletics
- Arts
- Games & Activities
- Academic Clubs
- Chinese Culture
- Mother Tongue Language Programs