



Nanjing International School
An **Inclusive Learning Community**

Distance Learning Overview
School Year 2021-22

Preparing for learning...

- ❖ At Nanjing International School, we work hard to ensure that we are as prepared as possible in the event of campus closure. We are constantly learning and adapting to support our learning community.
- ❖ The document is designed to give our community an overview of this planning, how we might adapt to different scenarios, and a chance to address frequently asked questions. We hope this is both helpful and reassuring as we work to craft the best possible plan for our students, families, and entire learning community.



Distance Learning Philosophy

- ❖ We recognize that on-campus and distance learning are not the same.
- ❖ The goal of academic continuity at NIS is to provide quality learning experiences, which allow students to achieve expected outcomes in any learning environment.

Distance Learning, like all learning at NIS...

- Keeps the learner in the center
- Is rooted in our Mission and Strategy
- Is based upon our existing curriculum
- Leverages existing digital platforms
- Prioritizes relationships
- Remains adaptive



Distance Learning Strategic Drivers at NIS

Blended Learning



We provide an age-appropriate blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences

Refine Inclusion



We prioritize relationships, support networks, and classroom communities

Personalize Learning



Voice, Choice, and flexibility remain at the center of our practice

Trial and Error Culture



We take risks, learn from mistakes, and remain open-minded

NIS Distance Learning Tools



Microsoft Teams

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



SeeSaw

Our main asynchronous learning tool in Primary grades



Managebac

Our school learning management system



Veracross

Our student information and management system



Microsoft 365

Office 365

Our complete digital productivity suite and collaborative platform



MyNIS

Our enhanced school website helps support our Distance Learning plan



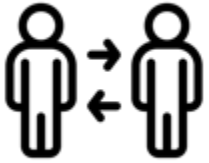
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Level One: On-Campus Learning

In this scenario, all NIS students have access to campus.

This is our default and preferred method of learning.



All required safety measures are in place.



Co-curricular activities run as normal.



No distance learning plan is required



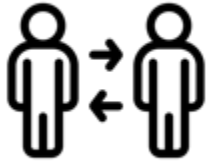
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Level Two: Hybrid Learning

In this scenario, some NIS students have access to campus and some do not.

We provide a blend of on-campus and distance learning based on need.



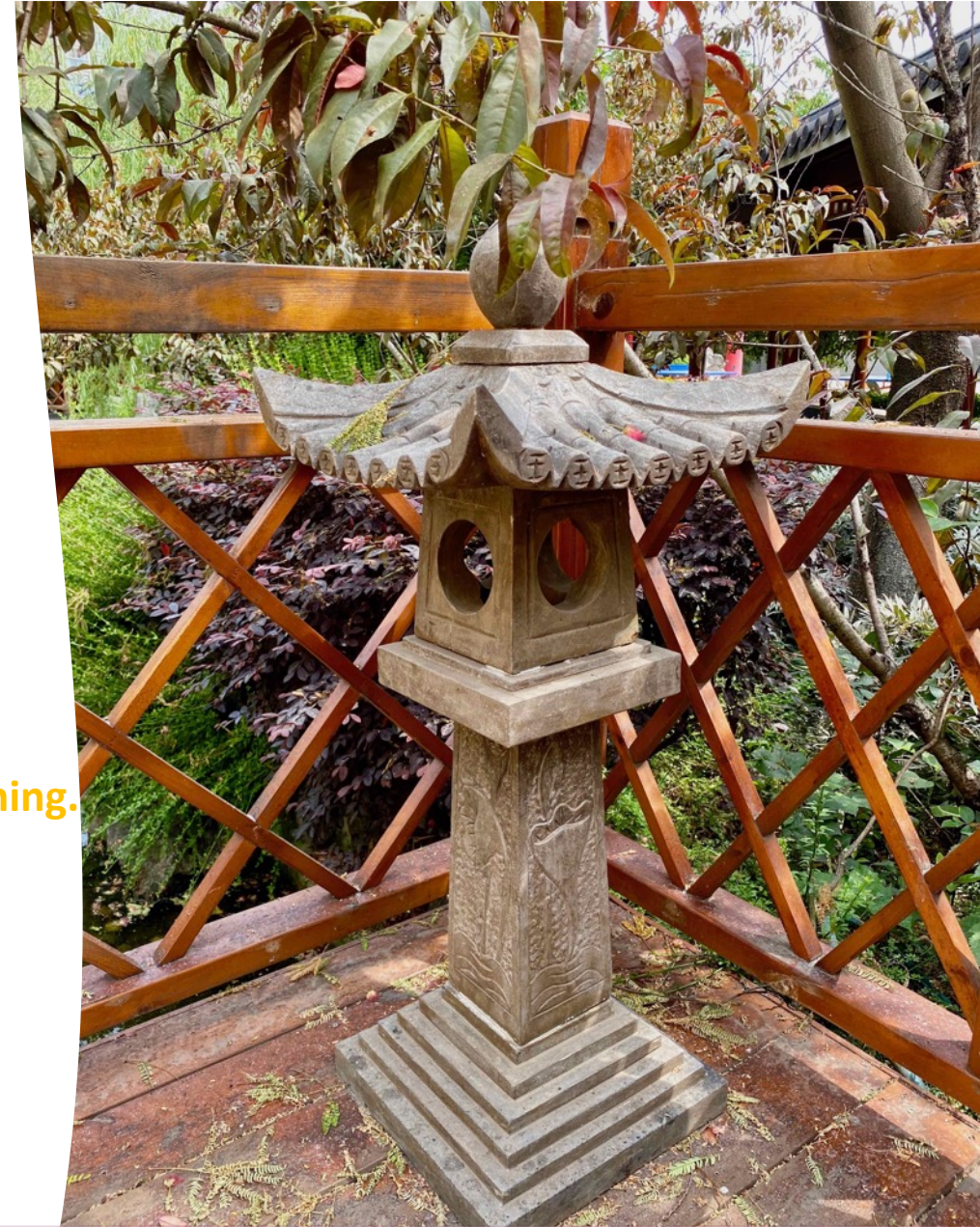
All required and necessary safety measures remain in place.



Students unable to return to campus engage in Distance Learning.



Distance Learning continues through arrival & delayed entry.



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Level Three: Distance Learning

In this scenario, students are not able to access the NIS campus.

The NIS Community moves to our Distance Learning Plan.



All students engage in the NIS Distance Learning Plan



Distance Learning begins when practically possible



NIS awaits permission to safely reopen campus for students



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The Role of the Teacher in Distance Learning

- ❖ Provide social and emotional support to students in our classes.
- ❖ Ensure an age-appropriate balance of synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- ❖ Develop and document meaningful learning experiences that are genuinely rooted in units of study.
- ❖ Provide students with choice and flexibility in lessons and assessments.
- ❖ Provide timely and meaningful feedback to students.
- ❖ Communicate regularly with parents, especially in cases where students require additional support.
- ❖ Collaborate with Learning Support and EAL Colleagues to best support all learners in our care.
- ❖ Follow NIS Child Protection Guidelines and Code of Conduct.

The Role of the Student in Distance Learning

- ❖ Identify a comfortable and quiet place to study.
- ❖ Engage with the learning opportunities provided, both synchronously and asynchronously.
- ❖ Check appropriate online platforms for information on courses, assignments, and resources daily.
- ❖ Maintain communication with teachers, parents, and classmates.
- ❖ Manage your time and work to complete assignments within the set timeframe.
- ❖ Adhere to NIS Peer-to-Peer Safeguarding and Academic Honesty Guidelines.
- ❖ Balance your screen time and seat work with physical activity and regular breaks.
- ❖ Ask for help when you need it.

The Role of the Parent in Distance Learning

- ❖ Help create a comfortable, quiet place for learning each day. Provide support when needed.
- ❖ Ensure your child has a device at home with the best internet speed and connection you can provide.
- ❖ Support students to maintain healthy routines including quality sleep, a balanced diet, and time for exercise.
- ❖ Ensure your contact information is accurate in Veracross.
- ❖ Check your email daily for school-related communication.
- ❖ Contact teachers directly with questions about your child's learning.
- ❖ Complete feedback, health, and travel surveys given by the school in a timely manner.
- ❖ Ask for help when *you* need it.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What do synchronous and asynchronous mean?

Our Distance Learning Plan is based on the combination of an asynchronous learning environment and synchronous engagements. An asynchronous learning environment does not require participants, teachers, and students to be online at the same time. Synchronous, real-time engagements are opportunities for students to participate in sessions with their teachers and classmates at an established time to allow for face-to-face interactions. Both UNESCO and the International Baccalaureate (IB) suggest that blending these approaches provides students with higher quality outcomes.

What do I do if I have a tech issue?

Please visit the [HelpDesk site](#) in the “MyNIS” section of our website for self-help and to schedule an appointment with one of our IT staff. *You can also [click here](#) to submit a help request. Please put NIS Parent in the subject heading.*

What is a “focused curriculum?”

Students in the Primary and Middle grades will have a smaller number of focused subjects. This approach is based on feedback from parents, teachers, and students and is intended to help younger students better manage their time and deepen their learning.

What about students in Grades 9-12?

Students in these grade levels will have their full schedule of classes. This is both age appropriate and designed to support continuity of learning at these higher grade levels. Students in these grade levels also require marks in all classes on their individual transcripts.



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Please visit [Learning Continuity](#) on the NIS Website for more information about distance learning at our school.

Please contact [Mr. Kasson Bratton](#), Director of Learning, with questions regarding the overall distance learning plan.

Please remember...

Be Kind...

This too shall pass...