



The more we play,
the more we discover!

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



SSIS
SAIGON SOUTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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Dr. Catriona Moran
Head of School

Dear SSIS Community,

It is with great excitement that I share with you our Annual Report and reflect on our remarkable achievements this past year.

Within these pages, you will see that last year proved to be another banner year for university acceptances. SSIS students gained admittance to highly selective schools in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, and Europe. This is truly a testament to the value of an SSIS education, as were our IB scores – the highest ever at SSIS. You will also note a growth in the number of AP students and an increase in those scores.

Last school year, we broke ground on two new facilities that will expand and modernize our campus. The long-anticipated new Middle School and new STEAM/Design Center will provide more than 25,000 sqm of state-of-the-art resources to enhance the SSIS experience for our students.

In celebration of our school's 25th Anniversary, more than 400 members of our community gathered for an unforgettable 25th Anniversary Gala, which was a resounding success. I was moved to see the many people from throughout our school's journey return to participate in this event.

The 2022-2023 school year brought a much-welcomed sense of normalcy. When masking requirements were lifted in September, our students and faculty thrived. Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was revitalized, bringing back cherished traditions such as Family Fun Day and Halloween and other parent-run clubs and activities. Students, faculty, and parents were further delighted that our After-School Activities (ASAs) and Athletics resumed, Parent Coffees were held, and the first musicals in many years took to the stage! Seeing the joyful energy on campus this year was wonderful.

Additionally, we were delighted to add multiple new positions to support the growth of our programs. Last year we added Director of Activities and Community Engagement Dr. Daniel Long, Associate Middle School Principal Philip Wendel, a new Elementary School Counselor Shawn Edwards, as well as a new Middle School Instructional Technology Teacher Lan Phan, in addition to the other new faculty we welcomed.

Your tuition payments make this growth possible, as they directly support your child's education and success at SSIS. Every payment made is invested into ensuring your children have the best programs, resources, and educators possible. I invite you to explore the details, along with our achievements and milestones, within the pages of this Annual Report.

We are so grateful for your continued partnership and engagement as we look forward to another year of growth and success at Saigon South International School.

All good wishes,

Dr. Catriona Moran
Head of School

OUR HISTORY

Twenty-five years ago, visionary founders Ferdinand Tsien and Lawrence S. Ting saw the need for a school that would offer more than a rich academic program. They believed that, as educators, we must ask ourselves what type of individual we will send out into the world.

Based on that belief, they developed our Mission Statement and our Core Values, which guide our students to graduate with a rich academic experience that includes art, music, drama, and athletics. An SSIS graduate is expected to actively seek acts of service and to look upon others as equal in dignity and worthy of respect. Our graduates will continue to nurture a sense of responsibility for their immediate and extended community, locally and globally, as they venture out into the world.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that learning is an interactive process of discovery, where nurturing the attitudes necessary to lead a meaningful life is as important as developing the skills to succeed. Students, teachers, and parents all play an integral role in supporting this development.

That is why our school's mission, the foundation of our curriculum, incorporates more than just our areas of study. Deeply rooted in conceptual understanding, SSIS courses of study are student-centered and guide learners towards purposeful lives as global citizens.

The multicultural aspect of an international school can be a life-changing opportunity for a child. SSIS encourages students to make the most of this opportunity, to ensure their experience is as fulfilling and rewarding as possible.

MISSION STATEMENT

SSIS is a college preparatory school committed to the intellectual and personal development of each student in preparation for a purposeful life as a global citizen.

CORE VALUES

Our Core Values are at the center of all we do. Academic Excellence, Sense of Self, Balance in Life, Dedicated Service, and Respect for All play a vital role in every student's daily life and, along with their diplomas, will remain with them for the rest of their lives.



Academic Excellence

A challenging academic program, based on American standards, that teaches the student how to think, to learn, to problem solve, and to work individually and in teams while acquiring a foundational knowledge base of the world.



Sense of Self

A community atmosphere in which each student can gain a sense of who they are in the world; to develop self-confidence, strong character, convictions, leadership abilities, grace, courage, the desire to be a life-long learner, and the commitment to achieve excellence in all they do.



Respect for All

A perspective that each individual is a person of worth.



Balance in Life

An academic program that promotes an appreciation for all of life and seeks to balance the sciences with the humanities; academics with the arts; mental wholeness with physical, social, and spiritual wholeness; and future career with family relationships.



Dedicated Service

A view that looks beyond oneself to the assets and needs of the surrounding community and the world and finds fulfillment in unlocking potential in the service of mankind. The model SSIS graduate will demonstrate a caring attitude, be environmentally aware, and persevere for the good of the community.

PROFILE OF A LEARNER

As a community of learners, we are:

Collaborative

We include others, work purposefully and respectfully to achieve a shared goal and recognize everyone's contributions.

Creative

We wonder; we seek and generate original ideas and outcomes.

Critical Thinkers

We ask questions and inquire of self and others; we evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information from multiple perspectives to make meaning before taking action.

Communicators

We listen actively; we express ideas with clarity and respect.

Adaptive

We respond to change with an open mind in order to learn and grow physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

Courageous

We take action in challenging situations; we persevere when it is right to do so and recognize when it is right to change.

Reflective

We pause and evaluate our thinking, actions, and impact.

Ethical

We act with integrity; we respect the rights of all individuals and meet our responsibilities to the greater community.

Knowledgeable

We develop and use conceptual understandings, exploring knowledge across a wide range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance. (IB)



25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



Over 400 people attended the SSIS 25th Anniversary Gala Event, each of whom has had an individual impact on making SSIS the wonderful school and community that it is.

The event, which included music from our Tri-M Saxophone Quartet & Flute Trio and a delicious four-course dinner began with a video created by alumni Gabe Thai '22. The joy, community spirit, and camaraderie were palpable as members of our community since 1997 came together to mark this momentous occasion.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and our enthusiastic and generous bidders, we brought in nearly 1,500,000,000 VND in proceeds from the silent and live auctions. We can now purchase additional 3D printers in the ES MakerSpace allowing students to bring their ideas to life. Furthermore, the inclusion of the Cricut Maker, a precise cutting tool for paper and stickers, will open up exciting possibilities for ES students. It will amplify their creative potential and offer an expanded spectrum of projects and activities. These cutting-edge tools will empower our children to explore, create, and innovate, fostering a deeper understanding of Making, turning ideas into products through design, invention, iteration and building.



For the MS/HS, we will purchase a Tormach 770 CNC Milling Machine and a Tormach 8L CNC lathe, which will be very important for the Computer Science and Engineering program as we grow VEX (in MS and HS) and embark on FRC robotics. Importantly, for the updates planned for the Design and Fabrication course for 2024-2025, these two items will be key tools.



25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Celebrations on campus began at Family Fun Day with handprints on a banner and ended with a school-wide outdoor assembly that included birthday cookies, a rendition of Happy Birthday, and a school-wide photo in the shape of “25.”

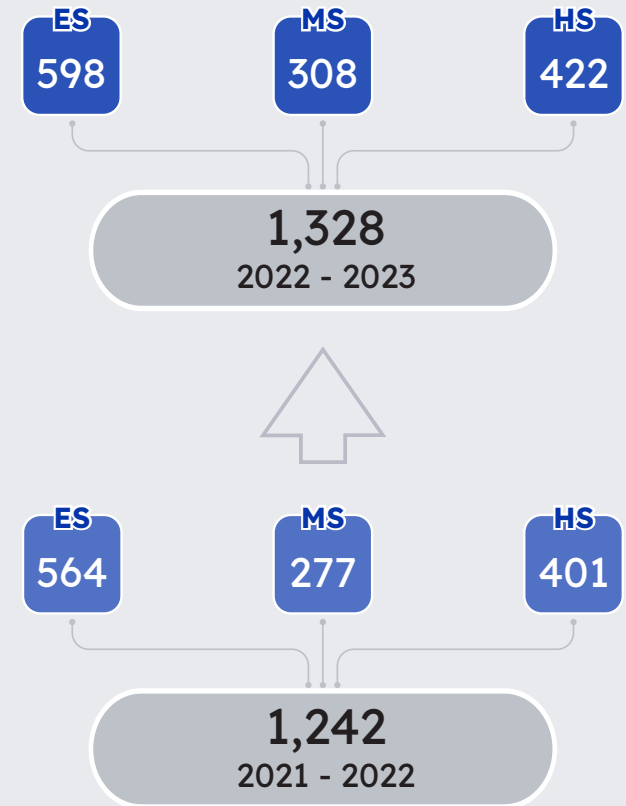


OUR STUDENTS

STUDENT NATIONALITIES (45 Total)

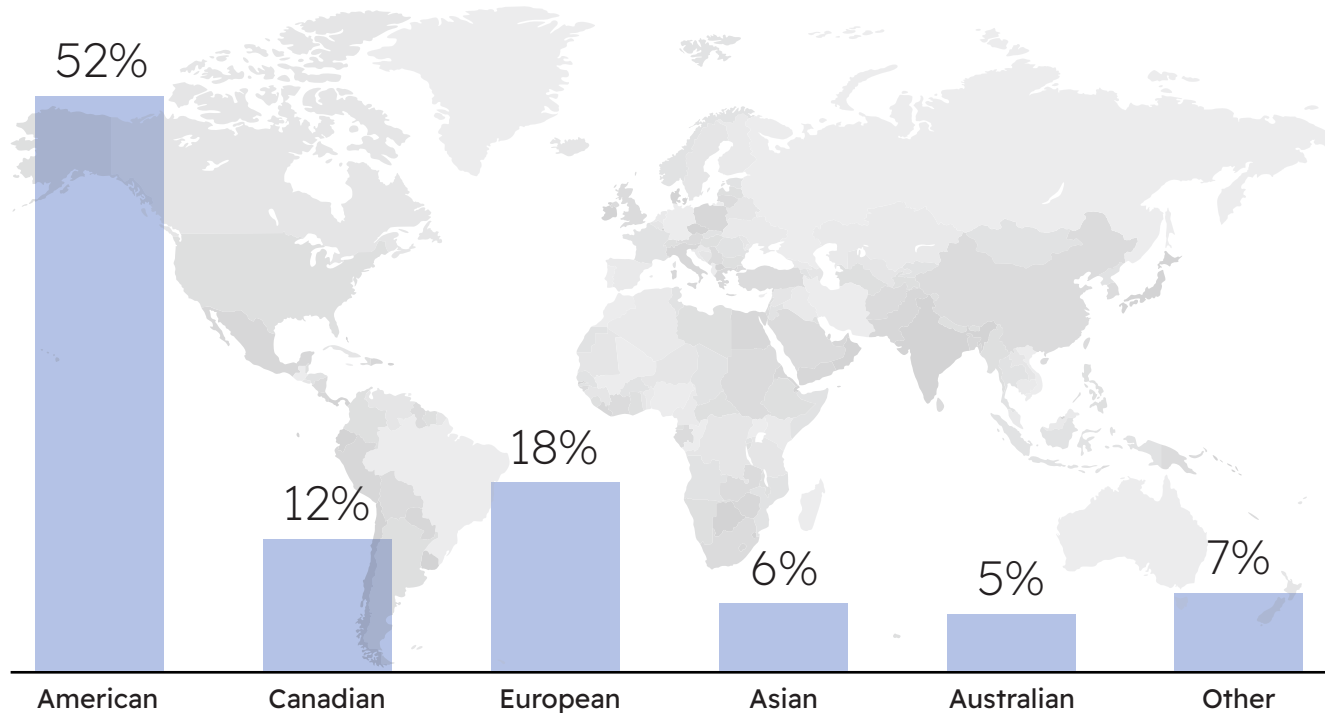


STUDENT POPULATION

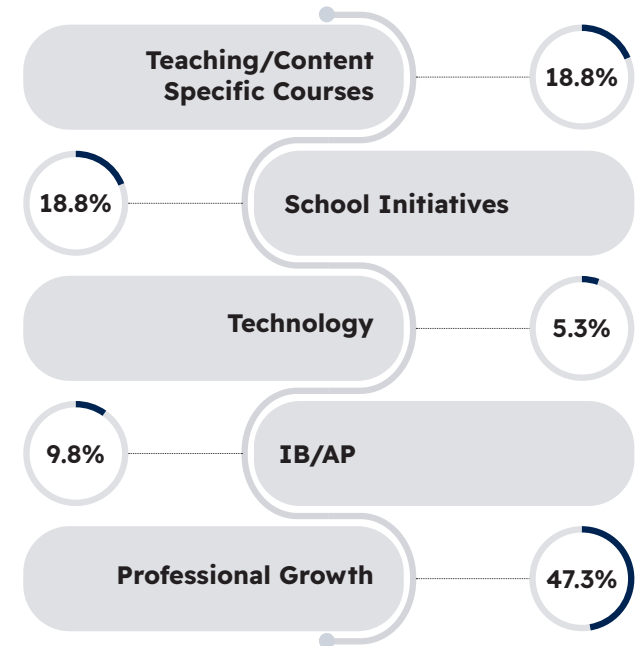


OUR TEACHERS

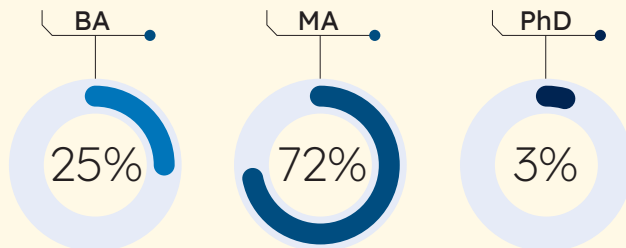
TEACHER NATIONALITIES (25 Total)



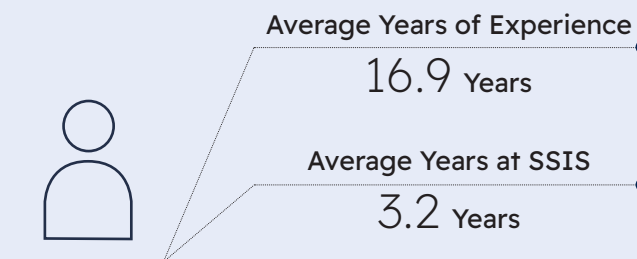
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES



HIGHEST DEGREES



AVERAGE YEARS - TEACHERS



AVERAGE YEARS - ADMIN



CLASS OF 2023 - UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

NORTH AMERICA

Al Miami International University of Art and Design
 Arizona State University Campus Immersion*
 Art Center College of Design
 Auburn University
 Babson College
 Baylor University
 Boston University*
 Brandeis University
 Brown University
 Bryn Mawr College
 Butler University
 California College of the Arts
 California Lutheran University
 California State Polytechnic University-Pomona
 California State University-Fullerton*
 California State University-Long Beach*
 California State University-Los Angeles*
 Carleton University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Christopher Newport University
 Concordia University-Chicago
 Cornell University
 Drexel University*
 Duke University
 Fashion Institute of Technology*
 George Washington University*
 Humber College
 Indiana University-Bloomington*
 Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
 and Health Sciences*
 McGill University
 McMaster University
 Michigan State University*
 Mount Holyoke College
 Northeastern University*
 Northwestern University*
 Occidental College
 Oglethorpe University
 Ohio State University*
 Pace University*
 Pennsylvania State University*
 Pepperdine University*
 Pratt Institute
 Purdue University
 Queen's University
 Quinnipiac University

Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*
 San Diego State University*
 Santa Clara University*
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 Simon Fraser University*
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Stony Brook University
 SUNY College at Plattsburgh
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University*
 Temple University*
 Texas A&M University-College Station
 Texas Christian University
 The New School*
 The University of British Columbia*
 Thompson Rivers University
 Toronto Metropolitan University*
 Trinity University
 University of Arizona*
 University of Calgary
 University of California-Berkeley*
 University of California-Davis*
 University of California-Irvine*
 University of California-Los Angeles*
 University of California-Merced*
 University of California-Riverside*
 University of California-San Diego*
 University of California-Santa Barbara*
 University of California-Santa Cruz*
 University of Colorado Boulder*
 University of Colorado Denver*
 University of Connecticut*
 University of Denver
 University of Florida*
 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 University of La Verne
 University of Lynchburg
 University of Massachusetts-Amherst*
 University of Massachusetts-Boston*
 University of Massachusetts-Lowell
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
 University of Oregon

University of Pittsburgh
 University of Prince Edward Island
 University of Puget Sound
 University of Rochester
 University of San Diego
 University of San Francisco*
 University of South Carolina-Columbia
 University of Southern California*
 University of the Fraser Valley
 University of Toronto*
 University of Victoria
 University of Virginia
 University of Washington-Seattle*
 University of Wisconsin-Madison*
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Virginia University of Lynchburg
 Wake Forest University
 Wellesley College
 Whittier College
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 York University

University of Birmingham
 University of Bolton
 University of Brighton
 University of Bristol
 UCL (University College London)*
 University of Hertfordshire
 University of Kent
 University of Leeds
 University of Leicester
 University of Sheffield
 University of Southampton
 University of Stirling
 University of Warwick
 University of York
 Utrecht University of Applied Sciences
 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

AUSTRALIA

Monash University*
 The Australian National University
 The University of Adelaide
 The University of Sydney*
 University of Melbourne*
 University of New South Wales

ASIA

Hanyang University
 Keio University Shonan Fujisawa Campus
 Korea University
 National Cheng Kung University
 RMIT University - Vietnam
 Seoul National University
 Sogang University
 Sophia University
 Tunghai University
 Waseda University
 Yonsei University

*Multiple acceptances

CLASS OF 2023 MATRICULATION

51%	11%	12%
North America	Europe	Australia
21%	5%	
Asia	Gap Year/Military Service	

ATHLETICS

Sports Results

SISAC	
N/A	N/A
MRISA	
Basketball Jr Boys/Girls	1st
Basketball Sr Boys/Girls	1st
Soccer Jr Boys 5th, Girls	3rd
Soccer Sr Boys 2nd, Girls	1st
Volleyball Jr Boys/Girls	3rd
Volleyball Sr Boys/Girls	1st
SEASAC	
Badminton Boys	8th
Badminton Girls	8th
Softball Boys	8th

Elementary School

Season 1

Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
8	2	109
Participation		
34%	<div style="width: 34%;"></div>	

Season 2

Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
6	2	91
Participation		
29%	<div style="width: 29%;"></div>	

Season 3

Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
9	2	66
Participation		
21%	<div style="width: 21%;"></div>	



Middle School

Season 1

Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
17	3	125
Participation		
40%	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>	

Season 2

Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
14	4	171
Participation		
55%	<div style="width: 55%;"></div>	

Season 3

Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
14	2	155
Participation		
50%	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>	



High School

Season 1

Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
10	5	125
Participation		
30%	<div style="width: 30%;"></div>	

Season 2

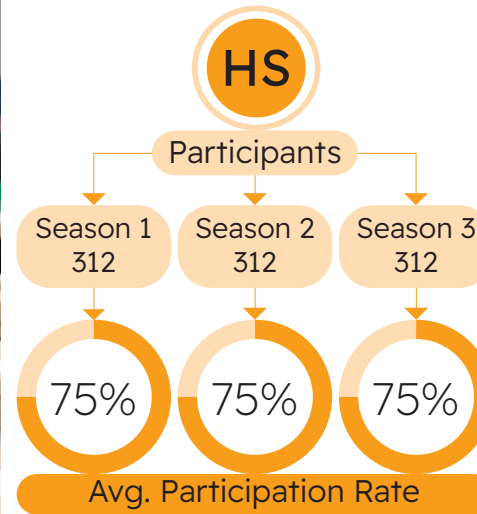
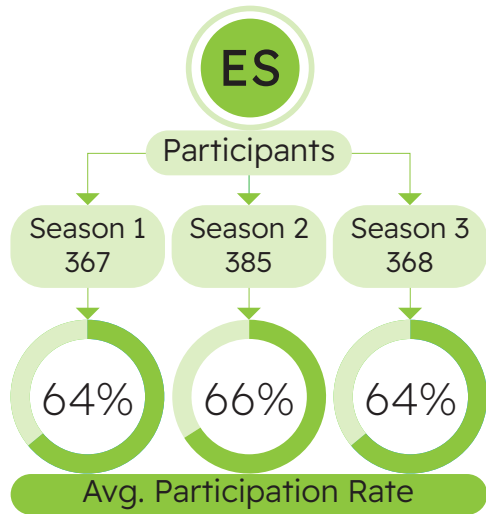
Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
8	4	143
Participation		
34%	<div style="width: 34%;"></div>	

Season 3

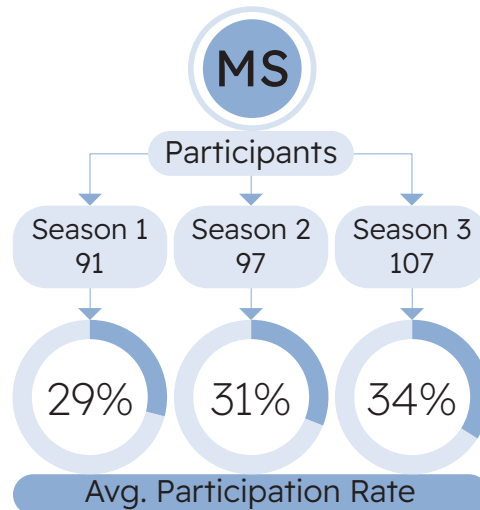
Total Teams	Total Sports	Total Athletes
9	3	101
Participation		
24%	<div style="width: 24%;"></div>	



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



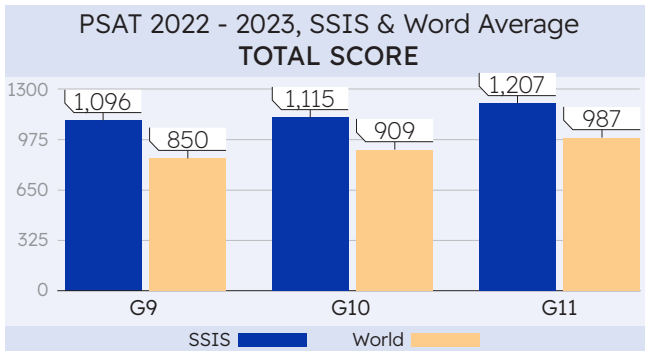
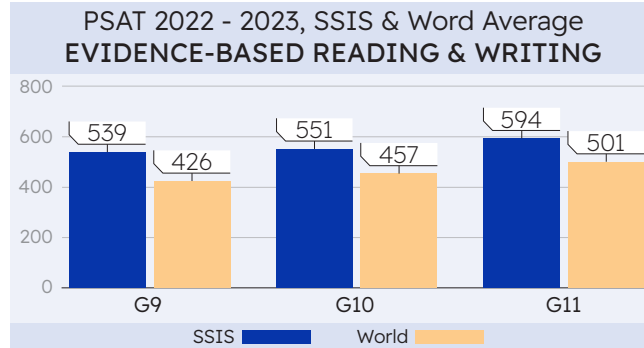
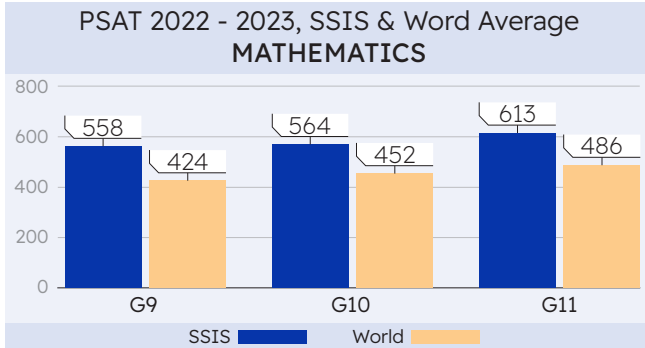
ASAs OFFERED			
Season	S1	S2	S3
ES	68	96	80
MS	12	16	11
HS	46	46	46



PSAT

The PSAT was devised by the College Board to help students with overall preparedness for the SATs. All of the PSAT tests are scored on a scale similar to the SAT, making it easy to demonstrate growth across years. US citizens qualify for the National Merit Scholarship based on their PSAT results.

SSIS students consistently performed above the world average and have improved their results each year.



SAT

At SSIS, students typically take the SAT in both grades 11 and 12. It is up to the individual student to determine how many times they want to take the SAT. SSIS reports the overall average of each student's best score.

SAT EXAM RESULTS

Evidence-based
Reading and Writing Mean



637

Math Mean



692

IB

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is a widely recognized, well-rounded, rigorous course of study for the final two years of high school. Students are required to take a total of 6 subjects, complete Creativity, Activity, and Services (CAS) activities, complete a Theory of Knowledge class, and write an original 4,000-word Extended Essay. Each subject has an external exam, which is graded on a scale of 1-7. To be awarded the IB Diploma, students must earn 24 points on the exams and complete all of the requirements listed above.



SUBJECT	Average grade (SSIS)		Highest grade (SSIS)		Average grade (World)		SUBJECT	Average grade (SSIS)		Highest grade (SSIS)		Average grade (World)	
	HL	SL	HL	SL	HL	SL		HL	SL	HL	SL	HL	SL
English A: Lang & Literature	5.60	5.30	7.00	6.00	4.80	4.90	Psychology	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	4.80	4.40
Korean A: Lang & Literature	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.40	5.40	Biology	6.10	4.60	7.00	6.00	4.40	4.10
Chinese B: Mandarin	N/A	6.10	N/A	7.00	N/A	5.70	Chemistry	5.30	5.00	7.00	6.00	4.60	4.10
Mandarin AB	N/A	6.10	N/A	7.00	N/A	5.10	Physics	6.50	N/A	7.00	N/A	4.80	N/A
Spanish AB	N/A	6.00	N/A	6.00	N/A	4.90	Mathematics Analysis & Approaches	5.80	5.40	7.00	7.00	4.90	4.60
Spanish B	4.00	5.80	4.00	7.00	4.90	5.30	Mathematics Applications & Interpretation	5.20	N/A	7.00	N/A	4.40	N/A
Economics	5.80	5.80	7.00	7.00	5.10	4.80	Music	N/A	4.40	N/A	6.00	N/A	4.20
Env. & Soc.	N/A	5.50	N/A	7.00	N/A	4.20	Theatre	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	5.00	4.60
Geography	6.00	6.30	7.00	7.00	5.20	4.70	Visual Arts	5.70	5.20	6.00	6.00	4.40	4.00

IB Results May 2023		
30 IB Diploma candidates registered	37.1 Average points obtained by diploma candidates	SCHOOL STATISTICS
262 Subject exams taken	44 Highest diploma points awarded to a candidate	
28 Candidates awarded the IB Diploma	5.85 Diploma candidates' average exam score	

AP

The Advanced Placement (AP) program offers standardized courses to high school students. AP courses are generally recognized as the equivalent of undergraduate courses in college. An exam score of 3 or above is considered passing. Many competitive universities will grant college credit to students who score a 4 or 5 on their exams. Students can begin taking AP courses in grade 9.

AP Courses	Average Grade (SSIS)	Highest Grade (SSIS)	Average Grade (World)	AP Courses	Average Grade (SSIS)	Highest Grade (SSIS)	Average Grade (World)
2-D Art & Design	4.30	5.00	3.40	English Literature & Composition	4.10	5.00	3.50
Biology	3.60	5.00	3.10	Human Geography	3.90	5.00	3.30
Calculus AB	3.40	5.00	3.10	Macroeconomics	3.80	5.00	3.10
Calculus BC	4.30	5.00	3.90	Microeconomics	3.80	5.00	3.30
Calculus BC: AB Subscore	4.50	5.00	4.00	Physics 1	3.40	5.00	3.20
Chemistry	4.20	5.00	3.60	Psychology	4.30	5.00	3.20
Computer Science A	4.50	5.00	3.40	Statistics	3.90	5.00	3.40
Computer Science Principles	3.70	5.00	3.20	World History: Modern	4.10	5.00	3.60
English Language & Composition	3.40	5.00	3.00	United States History	3.90	5.00	3.10



AP Results May 2023			
SCHOOL STATISTICS	88% Scored 3 or higher	24 AP Scholars with Honors	AP Scholars with Honors Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
	210 Students registered	41 AP Scholars with Distinction	AP Scholars with Distinction Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
	451 Exams taken	24 AP Scholars	AP Scholars Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.



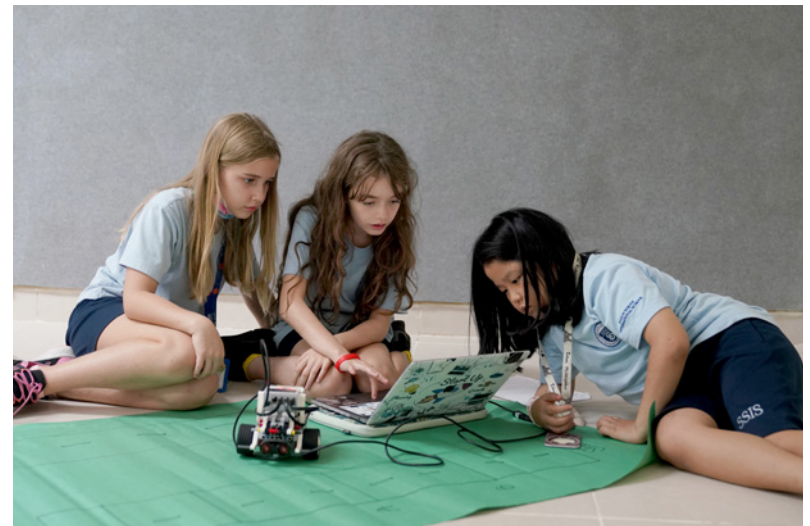
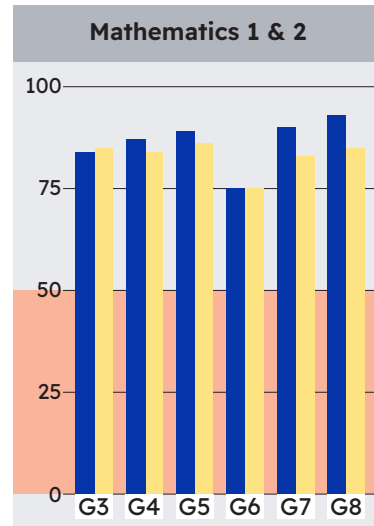
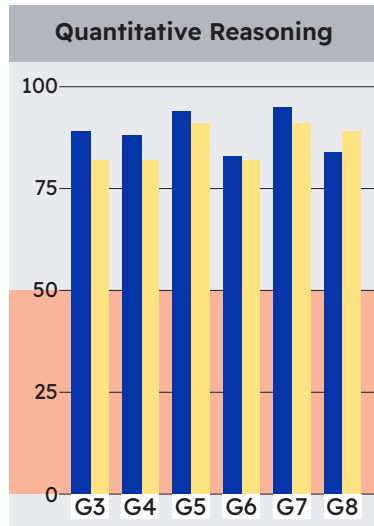
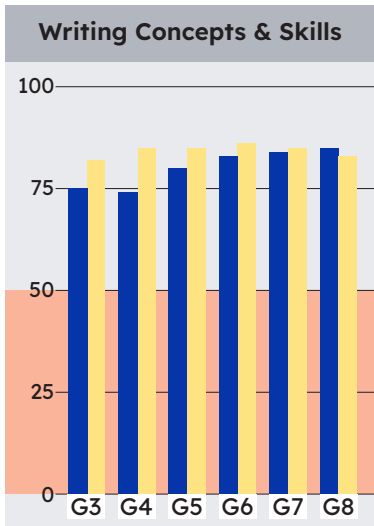
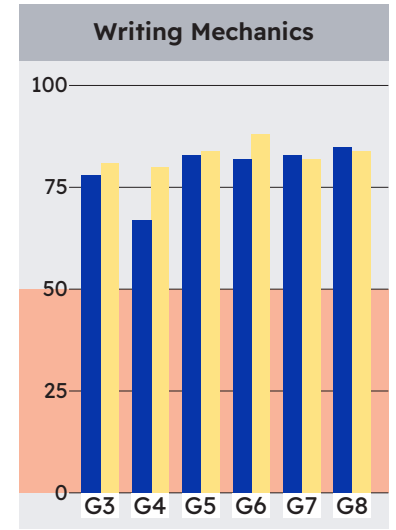
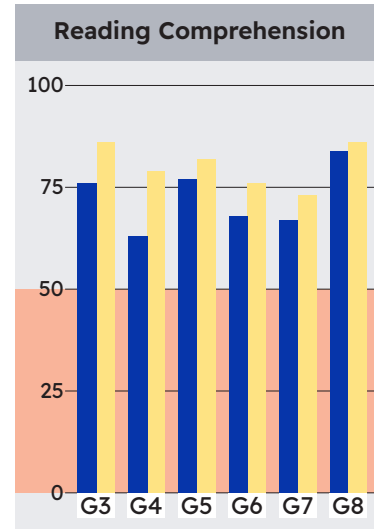
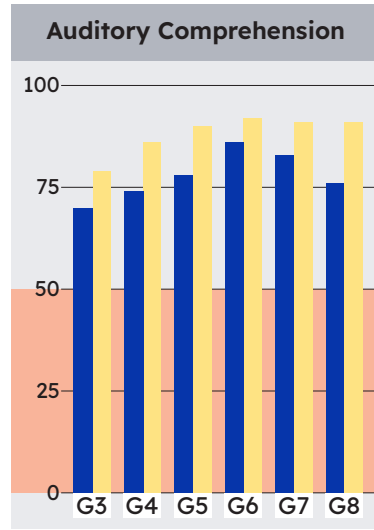
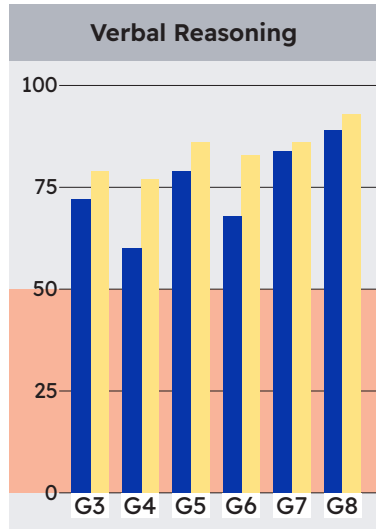
CTP

The CTP is an assessment test for high-achieving students in reading, listening, and mathematics. SSIS students' median percentile consistently ranks above the United States norm (50th percentile).

Our students are particularly strong in Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics 1 & 2, and their results are comparable to those of US

independent schools. As over 75% of our students speak a language other than English at home, it is not unexpected that the results for verbal reasoning and reading comprehension are lower than independent school norms.

National Percentile Rank Comparison, SSIS Students & Independent Schools



SSIS █ Independent Schools █ US Norm █

COMMUNICATIONS

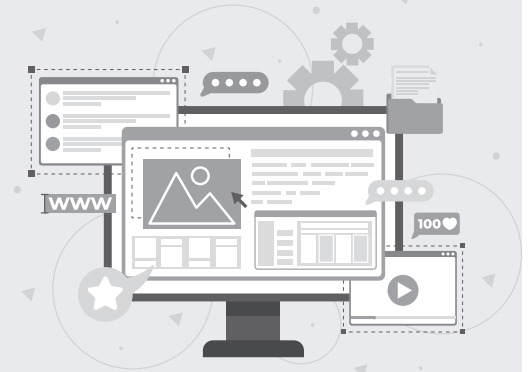
SSiS is committed to keeping our community informed. To better support this, the communications team launched our first-ever Parent Portal in April 2023. The portal is a centralized platform giving SSiS families access to information like the calendars, weekly newsletter (Dragon Digest), and Head of School letters.

We continue to place great importance on our communications and appreciate the feedback we receive on the community survey regarding communication.

WEBSITE TRAFFIC

115,000 Users
(number of people who visited our site)

516,375 Page Views
(view of a page on the site)



YouTube subscribers
2,580



Instagram followers
3,128



Dragon Digest newsletter
36



University visits
113



HoS updates
50+



News posts
150+



Facebook followers
13,203



Parent education sessions
19

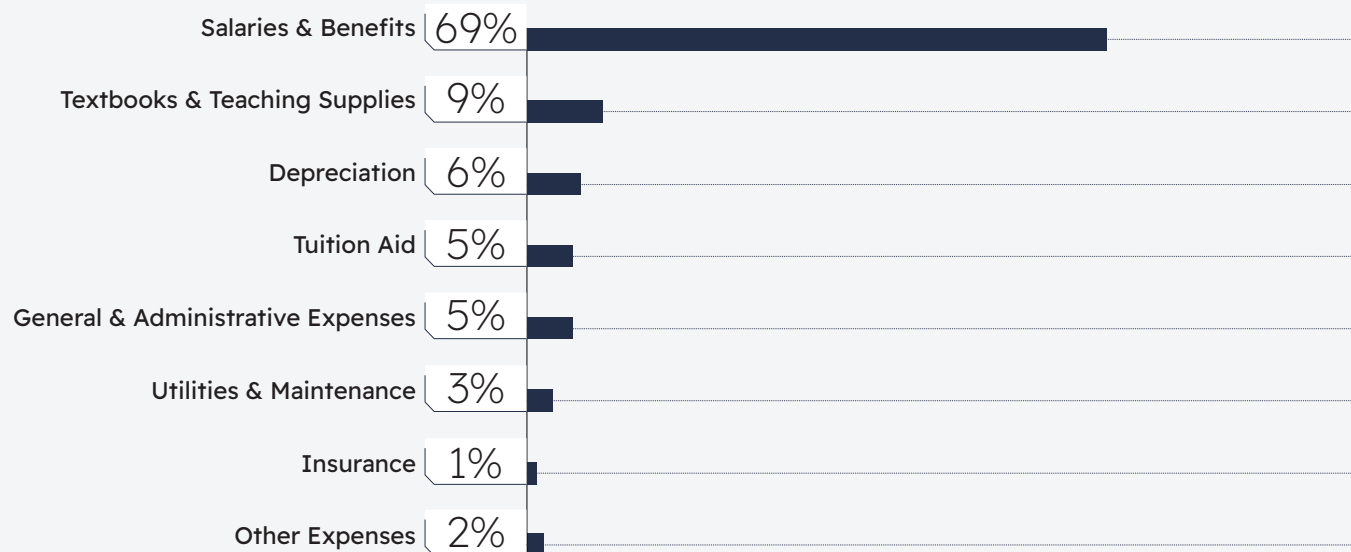


Seesaw posts
417,166

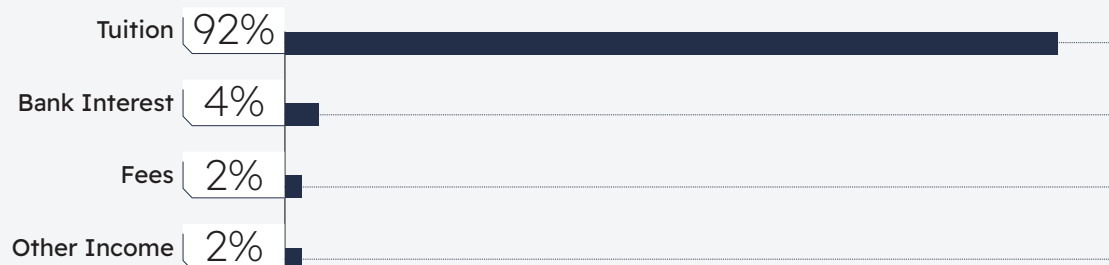
SCHOOL FINANCES

As the only not-for-profit K-12 school in Ho Chi Minh City, our revenue is reinvested in our students' educational experience at SSIS. We hire and retain highly qualified teachers and invest in the resources needed to best support our students' learning and growth. Our facilities provide an unparalleled environment for opportunities, both in and outside of the classroom.

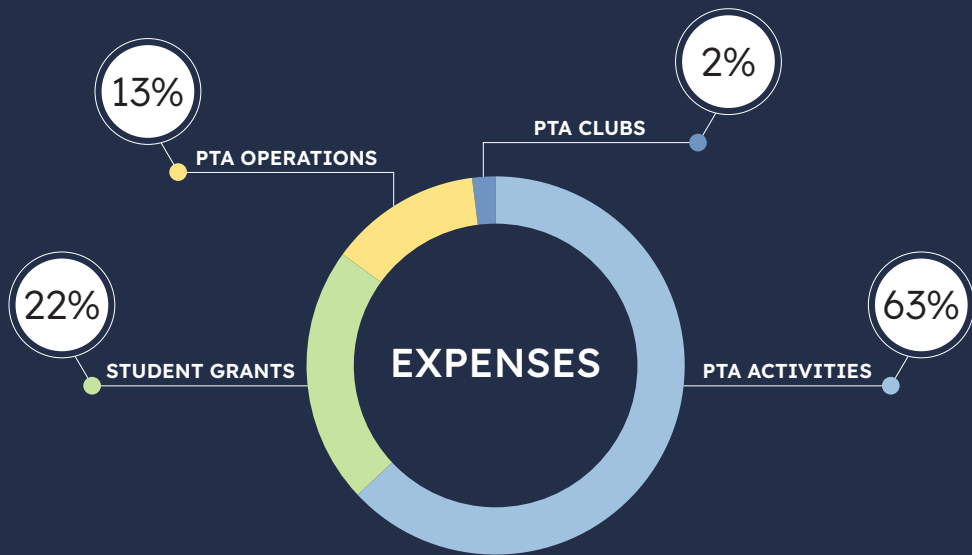
EXPENSES



REVENUE



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)



The SSIS PTA experienced a resurgence of activity after Covid restrictions were lifted, allowing them to fully engage with the school community. The year began with an inspiring PTA Welcome Coffee, which drew over 200 parents, setting the stage for a successful year filled with events that celebrated the strength of our SSIS community amid the school's continued growth. They hosted 6 large-scale SSIS community events, including the highly successful Family Fun Day, drawing approximately 1,500 community members.

Our dedicated PTA Board, comprising an executive team, divisional representatives, and a booster club leader, played a pivotal role in orchestrating these remarkable gatherings. In addition to these community-wide events, the PTA organized 13 different clubs that provided opportunities for parents to connect and engage. These clubs covered a diverse range of interests, from the Book Club to the Charities & Volunteering Club, with participation ranging from 10 to 20 parents at each gathering.

INTERNSHIPS

The grade 11 internship program was reinstated with 32 applicants and 25 students who SSIS helped to find suitable internship positions for June 2023. Generally, internship positions are at parent companies. For the first time this year, the school reached out to SSIS alumni that have since started their own businesses in HCMC and other businesses the school connected with for the 25th Anniversary.



ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

In December 2022, SSIS hosted its largest alumni event to date. More than 40 alumni, spanning nearly 20 years, were in attendance. We were proud to hear our alumni speak so warmly of their time at SSIS. They were all very excited to see the construction and learn about the program developments that will follow.

Additionally, Dr. Moran hosted a group of alumni in New York City, and high school principal, Jennifer Mendes met up with nearly 20 SSIS alumni during her time on university visits in Seoul.

Our alumni all appreciated the opportunity to stay connected with their alma mater and to network with other alumni.





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