



Nanjing International School

南京国际
外籍人员子女学校

Annual Report 2023



an **Inclusive Learning Community**



IB CONTINUUM
CONTINUUM DE L'IB
CONTINUUM DE L'IB

WE ARE A
CIS
INTERNATIONALLY
ACCREDITED
SCHOOL

Fully Accredited by
WASC
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS

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School Vision





From Our School Director

Laurie McLellan

2023 was the year when everything changed for NIS as the school campus once again took on the role of the meeting place for our inclusive community. With all access restrictions lifted, there was a great sense of joy combined with relief. We are finally seeing our HUB project happening in front of our eyes. Who would have believed that hearing building noise at the centre of a school campus would be something that would make us sigh and say 'at last the HUB is coming.'



There was also a change in travel opportunities which meant that our 30th Anniversary alumni event in Melbourne, Australia could go ahead as planned. It is wonderful to spend time with former students, graduates, and former parents. The connections remain strong. The 30th Anniversary remained a feature right up until October. On a beautiful May evening, we had our 30th Anniversary Gala with live music, delicious food, and dancing. This was truly a night to remember.





2023 has also seen our JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) move into a more active phase with our US-based JEDI consultants, Jacinta and Shelley, coming to campus in August and then again in October. JEDI has belonging at its core and thus this was the central theme when Shelley and Jacinta worked with NIS parents to bring them a baseline of understanding so they can actively engage with the positive changes we are trying to make within our inclusive learning community. While we are focused on the development of our students to help them have the tools and behaviours to make a positive impact on themselves, those around them, and global society, we know that students, parents, and teachers must travel that road together to maximise our positive impact.



2023 saw us say goodbye to Ms. Ruth Clarke after 14 years at NIS and welcome Ms. Sara Morrow to the leadership of our Secondary School. With a larger number of new teachers in Secondary, we are designing systems and removing barriers to assist students in finding pathways to their personal excellence. With more social-emotional counsellors at NIS, we are also putting student well-being at the centre of our support service to help students grow both academically and as global citizens.

Our Class of 2023 is now populating quality institutions of further education in different locations across the world. Once again, the variety of courses chosen is a testament to the breadth of the IB Diploma and the other pathways to graduation. We are proud of them.

In February, we hosted a huge Shanghai Swim League event which was a driver towards using our world-class sports facilities to host regional schools. In October, NIS hosted its first Orange Division ACAMIS tournament since 2019. We are ready for more in 2024.



Director Goals

- 1. Recruit a new Director of Learning.
- 2. Create a 'Future of Learning' Campus Re-development Plan.
- 3. Develop Action Plans from CIS/WASC/IB accreditation reports.
- 4. Implement the Government Relations Plan.
- 5. Develop a better understanding of JEDI for parents.



From Our Board Chair Julia Güsten

In 2023, our school once again witnessed a year filled with remarkable achievements and significant events.

The celebration of NIS's 30th Anniversary Gala stands out as a moment of great pride. This event brought together our diverse community, underscoring our shared commitment that goes beyond our school campus, by raising funds for the Pfrang Association. Another milestone was the graduation of the largest class in NIS history. The Class of 2023 showcased the school's dedication to nurturing exceptional talent and the unwavering support of our dedicated staff.



After four years of online training, we were so happy to be able to welcome our board trainer back to Nanjing for a productive retreat with the full Board. Additionally, some board members were able to attend the EARCOS leadership conference in Bangkok for some inspiring workshops and fruitful exchanges with members of other international schools in Asia.

In October, NIS hosted a team visit as part of the CIS/WASC re-accreditation process. Accreditation is important in ensuring that our school continues to uphold the highest international standards of educational excellence. We eagerly await the outcomes of this evaluation and look forward to engaging with the recommendations that will enhance the quality of our school even further.



Accreditation Team

The 2023 NIS Board

Julia Güsten (Chair)
Raúl Ramos Castrillo
Vincent Wang
Laurie McLellan

Tommy Cheung
Lingyun Gu
Bram van Nunen

Andy Reid
Angela Romero
Verena Höhne



Board Goals

1. The Board will develop a better collective understanding of JEDI and what it means for NIS.
2. The Board will respond to the Accreditation report, focusing on Domains A and B.
3. The Board will review and update Board bylaws to create transparency and remove redundancy.
4. The Board will continue to better develop government relations between local authorities and NIS.





Mission & Strategy

Our Mission

We are an
INCLUSIVE
LEARNING
COMMUNITY
INSPIRING
INTERNATIONAL
MINDENESS
PERSONAL EXCELLENCE
CREATIVE THINKING

Our Strategy

STUDENT
VOICE & **STUDENT**
CHOICE

We empower our students by involving them in decisions about teaching and learning.

BURST
the **BUBBLE**

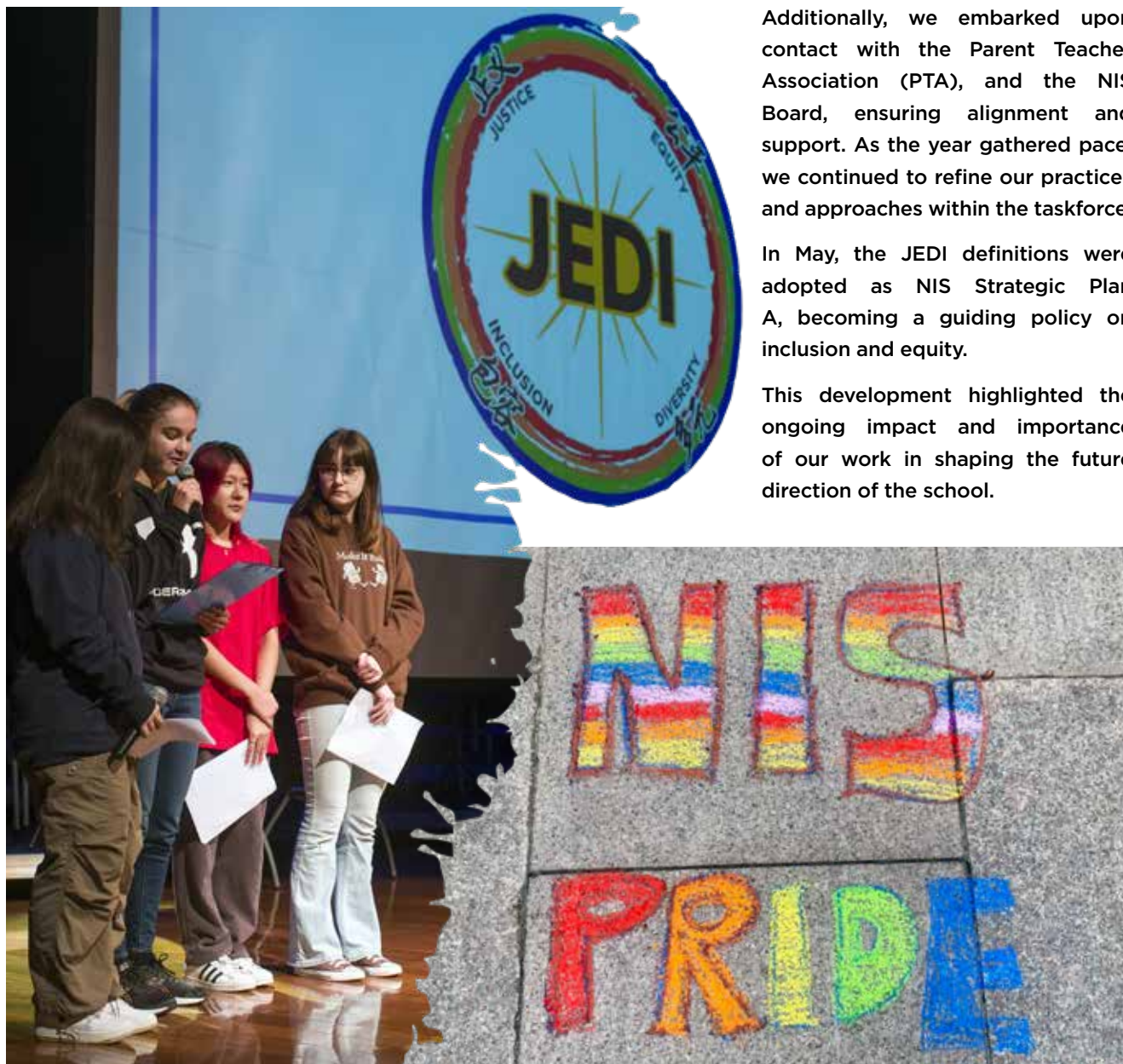
We equip our learners with the skills that allow them to connect and thrive outside their comfort zone.





2023 was a momentous year of small steps for the JEDI Taskforce. January saw the first meeting of the entire student and staff taskforce, where we completed the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) assessment. This gave us invaluable insights and areas for growth that have informed our ongoing planning and learning ever since. The next challenge was to create a distinct JEDI logo, providing a visual representation of our community's commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The logo serves as a unifying symbol for our efforts, our North Star and guiding light within the JEDI compass points.

By March, the taskforce was developing clear definitions of the JEDI principles, contextualized for our inclusive learning community, and a charter for the JEDI Taskforce, establishing a solid foundation for our work.



Additionally, we embarked upon contact with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and the NIS Board, ensuring alignment and support. As the year gathered pace, we continued to refine our practices and approaches within the taskforce.

In May, the JEDI definitions were adopted as NIS Strategic Plan A, becoming a guiding policy on inclusion and equity.

This development highlighted the ongoing impact and importance of our work in shaping the future direction of the school.

May also saw the presentation and adoption of the JEDI taskforce charter, by the Senior Leadership and Senior Education Teams. A living, evolving document, the JEDI charter seeks to define and operationalize the ways significant bodies can work together to forward NIS JEDI aspirations.

August began with staff listening circles for both faculty and operations, and September and October saw people from across the NIS community – staff, students, and parents – connect with and learn through our JEDI definitions. In multilingual sessions hosted by both the JEDI Taskforce and our US-based consultants Shelley Paul and Jacinta Williams, we centered our understanding on building a concept of belonging and connecting this to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Together we crafted ways to think, speak, and act within our community as we seek to secure a truly inclusive learning environment where everyone both feels and is indeed safe, welcomed, and valued.



Planning for the future, we have outlined a Transition/Perpetuation Plan that will ensure the continuity and sustainability of the JEDI Taskforce beyond the current academic year.

Our commitment to fostering a just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive learning environment is one that has been reflected in every interaction throughout the year with all stakeholders in our learning community. We have laid a strong foundation for future endeavors and are dedicated to continuing our efforts to promote justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion within our school community.



Financial Review

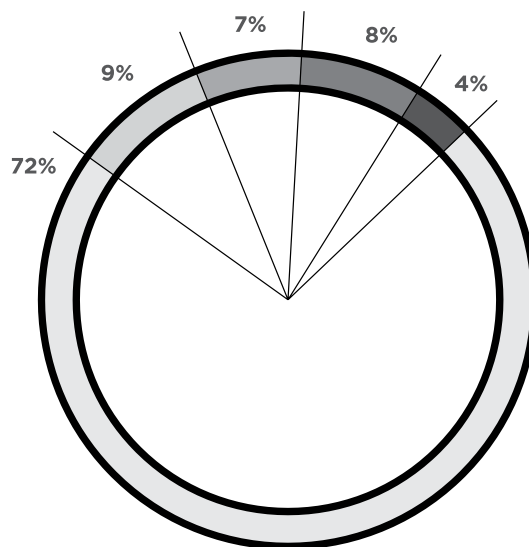
Nanjing International School is the only independent, nonprofit international school in Nanjing, meaning all our resources go into providing the best teachers, the best facilities, and the best opportunities for our students. We are owned by our parents.

All tuition fee payments are for the entire use of the school to benefit our students and their learning. This makes us unique amongst international schools in Nanjing. Since NIS is self-funded, all building projects, including loans, are paid for from tuition fees.

These two graphs show the budget and expenditure for 2022-23. The largest investment for our school is staffing. We acknowledge how much parents and teachers appreciate our school's transparency in the use of finances and our authentic non-profit status. We are proud to have stayed financially secure after the pandemic ended.

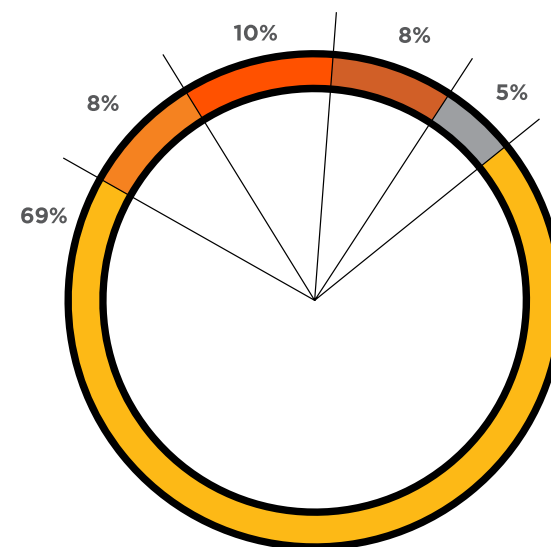
**Budget
2022-23**

- Staff 72%
- Depreciation 9%
- Premises 7%
- Resources for Learning 8%
- Administrative Expenses 4%



**Actual
2022-23**

- Staff 69%
- Depreciation 8%
- Premises 10%
- Resources for Learning 8%
- Administrative Expenses 5%



An Independent School

NIS is not part of an American or British school group business run for profit to the benefit of overseas and Chinese owners or investors. We are totally independent, and so do not fund an overseas business development office which then dictates what we do. That is why we can hire the finest teachers from anywhere in the world, build a world-class campus, and provide the best technology and resources for learning.



A Year of Learning



From Our Director of Learning

Kasson Bratton

2023 was a fantastic year of learning at NIS. With COVID restrictions ending as the new year began, the NIS community hit the ground running. Efforts around amplifying justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) took center stage as we learned and grew together with our JEDI Change Taskforce and external consultants, who were able to visit us in-person. We were also delighted to host our Responsive Classroom trainers on campus once again to help support our efforts to maintain vibrant, engaging learning environments in our Primary School.

These actions, combined with our renewed focus on inquiry, agency, and universally designed instruction created a strong foundation for Mission-aligned learning at NIS as we emerged from the pandemic years.

2023 was also special because it saw Discover China trips in both the Spring and Fall, which highlighted our school's commitment to providing outstanding co-curricular experiences for our students. Punctuating this point was our return to athletics hosting, as we also held a successful ACAMIS Volleyball Tournament with schools from around the region joining our teams for a celebration of sport and comradery. 2023 also saw our first Global Citizen Diploma (GCD) cohort of Seniors graduate. These rich experiences combined with another outstanding TEDx Youth @NIS, stunning Secondary Production, and our on-campus hosting of the student-led NISMUN III Conference demonstrated our strong belief that learning happens everywhere.

2023 also saw the culmination of our comprehensive self-study and on-site visits from the Council of International Schools (CIS), Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and the International Baccalaureate (IB), our three accrediting organizations. This 16-month-long process of introspection, and the in-depth visit that brought it to an end, resulted not only in our reaccreditation and reauthorization with these world-class organisations, but clear steps NIS can take to improve an already outstanding school.



Finally, we were thrilled to announce the hire of Ms. Sandra Chow as our next Director of Learning. Sandra is a dynamic, caring, innovative leader who believes strongly in the NIS Mission and is poised to carry the school forward into the future.

At NIS, we define learning as a personal process that develops new skills and understandings applied creatively within and beyond the classroom. With a strong foundation in place, continued commitment to student excellence, and a clear plan forward, NIS is well-positioned for an exciting 2024 and beyond!



This action plan will help guide these efforts for years to come. Many thanks to everyone that played a role in this process!

2023 also brought with it some exciting transitions. We were able to begin construction on the HUB Project, transforming our former library into a multi-floor, student-centered learning environment with a wide variety of bespoke spaces for students of all ages. We were also fortunate to welcome Ms. Sara Morrow as our new Secondary Principal, building on the legacy of leadership in our Secondary School.



Teaching Faculty

NIS is very proud of its international faculty and staff. With a reputation as a top IB World School in China and over 30 years of history, our school attracts experienced teachers from around the world who are kind, passionate about what they do, and love children. Our highly qualified and diverse faculty are a force for positivity, inclusivity, and innovation not only for their students, but our entire community.

As part of their continuing professional development in 2023, NIS teachers have had the distinction of attending and presenting at conferences and events in China and across Asia, including ACAMIS, EARCOS, the IB, and more. Our faculty attended a wide variety of International Baccalaureate workshops and training online, as well as other reputable educational institutions and associations across the world.



Our Students

School Wide
Teacher-Student Ratio **1-7**

Average Class Size
Primary **13** | Secondary **19**

Total Student Nationalities

29 | Girls **288** | Boys **316**

Languages Spoken at Home

English	Cantonese
German	Dutch
Mandarin	Italian
Korean	Hindi
French	Portuguese
Japanese	Turkish
Spanish	Russian
Latvian	Ukrainian



Faculty at a Glance

89
Teachers

Teaching Experience

< 5 Years: 3%
6-10 Years: 18%
11-15 Years: 25%
16-20 Years: 24%
20+ Years: 26%

23
Countries

Australia: 18%
Canada: 10%
China: 16%
United Kingdom: 9%
United States: 21%
Other Countries: 26%

63%
Hold
Master's
Degree
or Above

6
Years
Length
of Stay
at NIS

Support Staff

Our support staff are made up of teams of overseas and local professionals who are committed to supporting the operations and development of NIS in education, finance, facilities, human resources, admissions, and communications and marketing. Their expertise and dedication help to ensure not only the success of our school, but also our Mission and Strategy.



Student Diversity

We provide mother tongue instruction from Pre-K to 12 in English and Mandarin. In Primary, we offer German classes during the day and after school for Grades 1-5. In Secondary school, Grades 6-12 have first-language IB Korean and German instruction as well as second-language courses in Spanish and French. We continue to look forward to welcoming students from all around the world into our inclusive and diverse learning community.



Primary School

Student Council

Our Student Council has emerged as a powerful voice for change within the Primary School. The council formalized its mission and purpose this year to “Be the Voice, Take Action, Make Changes’. Their advocacy resulted in significant changes in lunchtime procedures, allowing for more efficient lunch service and creating more time for play. The Student Council worked with the Primary Leadership Team to increase play options for children on the playground. They were also instrumental in planning and supporting our Earth Day and Children’s Day celebrations.

Junior Ambassadors

Ms. Q launched our Junior Ambassador Programme in Grades 2-5. The Junior Ambassador Programme aims to empower students to become leaders and advocates for positive change. Through the programme, students have an opportunity to develop leadership skills, foster cultural understanding, and make a positive impact within our school community. One of the main roles of our ambassadors is to welcome new students and support them during their transition to NIS. They also organise and host inclusive activities during break times including drawing, reading, and card games.

German Programme

Our extended German mother tongue programme now includes opportunities for learning during the school day. Students in Grades 1-5 have access to German classes twice per cycle. During these classes, Grade 1-2 students learn foundation literacy skills, while students in Grade 3 -5 are supported to make connections between their learning in the Homeroom and German.



Parent-Led Conferences

This August, Parent-Led Conferences returned to the Primary School. We began the school year with parents meeting teachers to share important information about their children. These meetings helped teachers to better understand and support each child as an individual.

Responsive Classroom

All Primary teachers participated in Responsive Classroom training in September. Responsive Classrooms is grounded in research on children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development at each stage of Primary schooling. Focuses include building a positive community through predictable classroom routines and agreements, planning for engaging learning experiences, and creating calm environments that promote autonomy and responsibility.

Supporting Transitions

Supporting children as they transition into NIS has been an ongoing focus. This year, we also turned our attention to how we might best support children and families as they prepare to leave Nanjing and head off on their next international adventure. Supported by our counsellors, we worked with departing students on a regular basis at the end of each semester to ensure they had a smooth transition and a safe space to discuss their feelings. We also worked with parents to provide information on how to offer the best transition for themselves and their children.



Secondary School

Bursting the Bubble

The past twelve months have seen the return of many events and opportunities for students to 'Burst the Bubble' by reaching outside their immediate community, building connections with others, and making an impact. In the Spring, students participated in the NIS-hosted TEDx event, Earth Week, and International Women's Day, all of which fostered student advocacy and global engagement, and the first Discover China trips since the beginning of COVID. During this academic year, NIS was pleased to host the student-run NISMUN III, which brought more than 120 delegates and volunteers together to collaborate in working toward peace and international mindedness.

Of the Discover China trips, a Grade 11 student said: "Embarking on this trip was a journey filled with new experiences, excitement, and laughter. If I had to sum up the Grade 11 trip week in one word, it would be 'refreshing.' Engaging in trip week activities and participating in new challenges are one of the only times I truly go out of my comfort zone - which is why I don't take the opportunity for granted."

Through all those experiences and many more, NIS was proud to graduate our first class earning their Global Citizen Diplomas, with 55 students earning a credential showcasing their commitment to global citizenship and personal development, demonstrating that their story is more than numbers.

Supporting Student Well-being

To better support student well-being and growth, we restructured the counseling department, adding a second socio-emotional counselor. Stephen Toole, a former NIS teacher, brings a passion for student well-being coupled with deep knowledge of pedagogy and curriculum. The new team is continuing the work of refining the wellness curriculum based on the CASEL framework and rooted in JEDI principles.



Supporting Student Learning

Last year, a team of ten staff from the Primary and Secondary schools began an initiative to implement Multi-Tiered Systems of Support along with Universal Design for Learning in order to create more access and support for students in their individual learning journeys. The team conducted an audit, created a vision statement to guide the work, and determined priorities. They then led workshops engaging teachers in identifying and removing barriers to learning from their lessons and integrating meaningful choices and scaffolds for students. This work continues as we redesign curriculum and systematise our support for students.

Student Voice and Student Choice by Design

Throughout 2023, the Design team has grown, allowing them to expand their offerings and give students exciting new choices and opportunities for development. With the addition of Matt Burton last January, the Workshop reopened, giving students the chance to explore product design through woodwork, metalwork, technical drawing, electronics, and CAD design in addition to the pre-existing options of media and digital design. In some grades, the Design offering has also been expanded to include robotics and coding. Students immerse themselves in aeronautical engineering through the hands-on design and construction of drones, as well as programming AI and the creation of BattleBots for regional competitions. NIS is a leader in Robotics, with Ken Brady as an ACAMIS Robotics committee board member and international presenter.



Learning Outcomes

IB Diploma Results

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Full Diploma Entries	39	39	32	27	30	50
Diplomas Awarded	36	34	30	27	29	49
Pass Rate (NIS)	92%	87%	94%	100%	97%	98%
Pass Rate (World Average)	78%	77%	85%	88%	86%	79%
Mean Diploma Score (NIS)	35	31	35	38	35	33
Mean Diploma Score (World Average)	29	29	31	32	32	30
Average Subject Score (NIS)	5.5	5.0	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.3
Average Subject Score (World Average)	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.1	4.8
Highest Score (Max 45)	44	42	43	45	44	44

NIS Pathways to High School Graduation

NIS High School Diploma and IB Diploma

This is our most common pathway; all students at NIS are offered the opportunity to follow the full IB Diploma.

NIS High School Diploma and IB Diploma Courses

For students that have particular interests or strengths in some subjects and may not meet full IB DP requirements.

NIS High School Diploma

For students who are pursuing a high school diploma to meet their individual needs regarding access to higher education institutions after high school.

NIS High School Certificate

Certificate of completion for students who require modifications to the curriculum. Modified courses are indicated on the transcript with an asterisk.

Standardised Tests:

SAT 2023

	Reading & Writing	Math	Total
Range	200-800	200-800	400-1600
NIS Range	500-740	630-800	1130-1510
NIS Average Score	658	753	1411
US Average Score	520	508	1028

These results are based on the SATs taken in 2023 when students were in Grade 11 and 12. The group is self-selecting. NIS students score significantly above US averages in Mathematics (over 200 points above). More surprising for some, considering that most of the test takers are second language learners, they also score significantly higher than the US average (average combined score is over 130 points above) for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing.





University Acceptances

United States

Art Center College of Design
Bentley University
Boston University - 3
California College of the Arts
Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) at SUNY
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology

Los Angeles College of Music
Miami University Ohio
New York School of Design
New York University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Penn State Harrisburg
Pitzer College

Pratt Institute - 3
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rutgers University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of Visual Arts, New York
Stony Brook University
Syracuse University - 2
The New School (Parsons School of Design) - 4
University at Buffalo
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis - 3
University of California, Irvine - 2
University of California, Riverside - 3
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Puget Sound

Canada

Capilano University
Carleton University
Fanshawe College
McGill University - 2
Queen's University
Simon Fraser University - 2
University of British Columbia - 5
University of Toronto - 3
University of Victoria
University of Waterloo
University of Winnipeg
York University





United Kingdom

Cardiff University
City, University of London
De Montfort University
Goldsmiths, University of London
Imperial College London - 2
King's College London - 3
Kingston University London - 2
Lancaster University
Loughborough University
SOAS University of London
University College London - 6
University for the Creative Arts
University of Bath
University of Birmingham - 2

University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Dundee
University of Edinburgh - 3
University of Leeds - 2
University of Manchester - 6
University of Nottingham - 3
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton - 4
University of St Andrews
University of the Arts London - 2
University of York
Warwick University - 3

Rest of Europe

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
Bard College Berlin
Hanze University of Applied Sciences
HZ University of Applied Sciences
Leiden University
Radboud University
The Hague University of Applied Sciences
University of Amsterdam - 2
University of Groningen
University of Leiden
University of Twente
Vrije University Amsterdam

Asia, Australia, and Rest of the World

Bond University
Central Conservatory of Music (中央音乐学院)
Chinese University of Hong Kong - 5
Deakin University
Hong Kong Polytechnic University - 3
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology - 5
Korea University
Monash University
Seoul National University
University of Hong Kong - 6
University of Melbourne
Yonsei University

Student Activities

Throughout the year, students enthusiastically engaged in a wide range of inspiring co-curricular activities – exciting travels, the development of friendships, deep dives into diverse experiences, and the impressive display of their interests, talents, and wealth of knowledge.

These activities fostered international mindedness, personal excellence, and creative thinking. In 2023, we introduced new activities alongside perennial favourites, with Primary School activities structured in four 7-week cycles and Secondary School activities following customised schedules. Collaborative efforts between students, parents, and teachers further enriched the co-curricular landscape, with over 150 Student Activities for the year and more than 1000 potential activity vacancies to allow students to pursue and showcase their varied interests.

Throughout the academic year, the consistent spotlight on talents in Performing Arts, encompassing groups, bands, and choirs, added a dynamic layer to our school culture.

A pivotal moment occurred in October with the hosting of our first in-person Model United Nations conference, NISMUN III, led entirely by students. NISMUN III offered a unique platform for students to heal past wounds, explore untapped potential, and co-evolve as global citizens.



Discover China



Volunteering experiences saw a notable surge in Secondary student participation, diversifying the spectrum of co-curricular activities. This increase also gave rise to more student-led clubs, serving as platforms for sharing passions and contributing voluntarily to Primary School activities – significantly boosting overall participation. Students, assuming leadership roles, honed skills like communication, teamwork, and decision-making, empowering them as proactive contributors to their academic and personal growth.

2023 also featured Discover China trips in both the Spring and Autumn. Aligned with our Strategy of Student Voice and Student Choice, and Burst the Bubble, these trips offered students not only travel experiences but also dedicated extensions of the NIS curriculum. We were able to return to some of our favourite destinations while also exploring a new leadership programme.

The Class of 2023 celebrated personal excellence, creating lasting memories with an unforgettable experience in Qingdao.

As always, our Activities Programme complements our school curriculum, offering students diverse options to develop their artistic talents, technological skills, and global awareness.

Athletics



We began 2023 with China opening up – travel and sports competitions were back! ACAMIS Basketball was delayed due to COVID-19 outbreaks all over China, but we were able to compete in a combined Orange and Gold Division ACAMIS at Hangzhou that saw both Boys and Girls teams making the Finals.



In January our basketball teams were also able to travel to Shanghai for the SISAC Basketball Tournament. Chinese New Year passed with an excitement that we had not felt in four years.

February came and that meant SCISAC Volleyball in Xiamen. We participated with passion and enthusiasm from our Grade 7-9 students. But they were not alone, as our Grade 4-8 teams were able to compete locally and make their trips to Shanghai for their CISSA tournaments.



Our young Badminton players were able to get competitive experience in Nanjing as well.

The Spring season brought friendlies for ACAMIS Football and Middle School Basketball. Both teams were able to participate in their full slate of tournaments outside of Nanjing as ACAMIS Football took place in Tianjin, with our Boys team bringing home a Championship trophy.

For the first time since 2019, the SCISAC Basketball Tournament took place in Chongqing, and we were able to take Boys and Girls teams. Track & Field was able to travel to Suzhou for their ACAMIS Meet and Softball played their first game ever.

The Spring sports season came to an end with NIS students competing in the ACAMIS Golf Tournament and the ACAMIS Badminton Tournament, both in Shenzhen.

Our athletes finished the 2022-23 academic year strong, making their long wait for sports seem like a distant memory.





Following a Summer break in which teachers and students were able to travel home, sports started with a flourish. ISNAC, the International School of Nanjing Activities Conference, held its first Sports Festival right here at NIS. Four other area schools came to our gyms for a non-competitive, participatory event to kick off the high school volleyball season.

Additionally, NIS hosted the ISNAC Junior Table Tennis Tournament and those same paddlers journeyed to Shanghai for their CISSA Tournament. November started with a bang, or we should say a spike, as NIS hosted the first ACAMIS Orange Division event since January 2020.



The ACAMIS Orange Volleyball Tournament saw our six-division school meeting for a highly competitive, well-balanced, and respectful volleyball tournament with no team dominating and all matches ending with drama and excitement.



While neither of our squads were able to finish in the top 3, the NIS Girls team made the entire school proud by winning the Spirit of ACAMIS trophy.

November also saw our Cross Country runners pacing the field at the first ISNAC Cross Country meet.



ACAMIS Table Tennis was back on with their tournament in Beijing. Middle School Football was also busy with U12 and U15 ISNAC tournaments and a trip to Macao for SCISAC Football, which included Grades 7-9.



We finished 2023 with a full-day tournament here at NIS in December with teams from not just Nanjing, but around the region able to travel and play. The year 2023 will go down in NIS history as the year sports made a comeback, and it was our athletes who took advantage of the full and growing programme of sports participation. We are excited to see the future growth of our new local ISNAC league and look forward to more events with our two established regional leagues, ACAMIS and SCISAC.





Swimming

With the full return of all swim meets, the expansion of our Learn To Swim courses, and a new Aquatics Director, 2023 was an exciting year for our swimming programme at NIS.

As tradition goes, our first big event of 2023 was the Shanghai Swim League Round 3 in February, hosted in our very own pool. With 11 schools attending over the weekend and more than 600 swimmers participating, we could finally enjoy real racing and competing again.

This was a tremendous event only made possible by so many people helping and coming to experience the rebirth of our swimming community post-COVID.

2023 also saw the further development of the ISNAC (International Schools of Nanjing Activities Council) league. An added benefit from this cooperation is that we can now invite our ISNAC member schools to SSL development meets. NIS hosted the first one of 2023 in February, which is a crucial stepping stone for our 8&U swimmers to develop their understanding of a swim competition in a non-pressure environment.



At the end of February, we organised the NIS Series #3, a swim competition only for NIS students, where we give everybody the chance to swim entry times for future competitions and a great way to compete amongst friends and peers.

It's also during these competitions our team captains find great opportunities to reinforce team etiquette and connection.

March 2023 was a huge month for swimming with both ACAMIS Senior in Beijing and ACAMIS Junior in Suzhou.



For our seniors, this is the pinnacle of their swim career at NIS, and for our juniors, an amazing experience to compete with the best schools in China. A total of 38 swimmers represented NIS at these two major competitions and they all performed exceptionally well.

After the mid-semester vacation, Ms. Lammers and Mr. Loos (our new Aquatics Director) worked together for a week on campus to ensure the optimal continuation of our swim programme after the summer holidays. It was this week that our selected swimmers were preparing for the SSL Championships, organized by SAS Pudong on April 22 and 23.

This competition also marked the last swim meet for some of our Grade 12 swimmers before they moved on to university.

At the end of the year, in May and June, we attended the second SSL development meet at BSN and organised the final meet of our own NIS Series #4. However, the school year couldn't finish in a better way than showing off all the skills and progress that our Primary School students accomplished over the year. With two super fun showcases, we celebrated both the Grade 2-5 cohort and the Early Years to Grade 1 cohort.

In August, our swim squads dove in the pool early, and by September our Learn To Swim program had grown to a whopping 140 participants.

We participated in no less than 3 competitions in September. The first was our own NIS Series #1, which had an amazing turnout from all our volunteers in pink. The second was the inaugural ISNAC Sprints swim meet at WAS, which highlighted the growth and popularity of swimming among the international schools in Nanjing with NIS taking a leading role in developing this programme. Finally, we had the return of the Rocket Science swim meet in Shanghai, with more than 1000 participants.





September was also a crucial month for our wider swimming community at NIS. Not only did the adult swim classes start, but we finally saw the return of our community swimming on Saturday. This way, each NIS community member now has the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful facilities every weekend.

In October, SSL Round 1 was hosted by SSIS and 35 NIS swimmers had a great time in Shanghai. They competed fiercely, representing our school colors with pride. NIS then organized the second ISNAC IM-Ready swim meet, with 150 swimmers participating,

cheered on by an amazing crowd; there was a real buzz that resulted in many personal bests and a wonderful atmosphere.

With the end of 2023 approaching, our swim team geared up for a full-on closure of the year. In November, NIS Series #2 challenged our swimmers with longer 200m and 400m events. We later participated with our 8&U swimmers in the second SSL Development meet at BSN together with the ISNAC member schools. These two swim meets prepared us for the grand final of the year.

With the November SSL Round 2 at DCSZ, the ISNAC SKINS meet at BSN, and ACAMIS Senior Swim at ISB both in December, our swimmers were on a roll, swimming personal bests and attacking school records along the way.

The NIS swim programme flourished in 2023 thanks to many people. The Aquatics Office wants to acknowledge all the support we receive from our community members and swimmers. We are looking forward to a swimtastic 2024!

Performing Arts



Our Primary School Production is one of the highlights of the school year. This year's Primary Production of Rock Bottom debuted in February. All our Grade 2-5 students performed for their Early Years peers and all of the Secondary School grades, as well as a second performance in the evening for parents and other members of our community.

It was set in the Stone Age and featured growlers, mini miners, egg heads, and villagers, all set in the town Rock Bottom in our Performing Arts Centre. Primary students created the props, and scenery, helped with make-up, choreographed the songs, and operated all the sound and lighting for the show.

Continuing through to the Spring Festival was our Lunar New Year Assembly. To be performance-ready at assemblies and various functions, student clubs rehearse and collaborate throughout the year for their contributions. For example, our students are now performing their versions of the Fan Dance and the Dragon Dance to the beat of our own Chinese Drummers.

The Primary and Secondary School choirs performed at the Music Evening, Winter Concert, Winter Charity Festival, and Summer Recital, as well as at hotels in Nanjing for Christmas tree lighting ceremonies. Our school's orchestras and bands performed at some of the same functions as well as the Leavers' Assembly and Graduation for the Class of 2023. Some of our other musical groups showcased their guitar and ukulele-playing talents.



The Secondary Music Department's Student Leadership Programme celebrated its sixth year, with student conductors leading their respective ensembles in performances at the Nanjing City Wall, school awards ceremonies, NISMUN III, and around the Nanjing community for the winter holiday season. Students of both the music classes and after-school groups also contributed dependably and admirably to every Secondary assembly and major school function where their talents were needed.





At the end of 2023, the NIS Secondary School Performing Arts Department soared to new heights with the whimsical and enchanting performance of Alice in Wonderland.

The excitement was palpable as auditions drew a record-breaking number of students wishing to perform. Together we had over 100 students involved in the production as actors, musicians, backstage crew, and make-up and costume designers.



This year our Grade 10 Design students took the lead in set, props, and advertising design – a truly inclusive and authentic experience. The highly anticipated production of Alice in Wonderland captivated an audience of over 1,000 people. It was lovely to see our wider Nanjing community once again able to come on campus to share in our students' talented splendour. The magic of Wonderland unfolded on stage, making 2023 a standout year for NIS theatrical excellence.



*It has been an amazing year,
and we look forward to more in 2024!*



Our Community



NIS PTA Committee 2023

President: Gina Policelli

Vice Presidents:

Claire Kim

Jenny Su

Noortje Weyhaeghe

Treasurer: Lily Li

Events: Gabby Lee

PTA Shop: Rachel Reid

Birthday Cupcakes:

Konstanze Hartmann,

Dova Shi

Marketing: Kathy Roelants

Parent Teacher Association

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
Welcomes, Connects and Supports
PARENTS/GUARDIANS,
TEACHERS/STAFF AND STUDENTS
at NIS IN THE SPIRIT
OF PROMOTING A
COLLABORATIVE AND INCLUSIVE
SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Our amazing PTA works to create and maintain an invaluable connection between our parents, caregivers, and NIS faculty and staff. Led by parent members and supported by a large circle of community volunteers, the PTA strives to help build a strong and vibrant school. Annually, the NIS PTA organises a broad number of inclusive community events to foster NIS spirit, promote cultural exchanges, and raise funds for PTA student and community activities.

2023 was the triumphant return of all the events our inclusive learning community love! From a fantastic International Day to a huge Autumn Festival and Coffee Mornings, Sports Nights, and school dances in between, the PTA has worked tirelessly to create moments that brought us all together, celebrated our diversity, and built lasting memories for our students and families.



The NIS HOUSE SYSTEM 2023

A highlight of 2023 saw us ignite house spirit at the onset of the 2023-24 school year through house meetings and the re-creation of an old NIS human formation photo. This time, the aerial photo was shot with a drone, and we have a fantastic time-lapse video of students and staff moving into the formation of NIS and dispersing. The previous house photo was taken from the second floor of the PAC with students and teachers sporting the old house colours.

We are looking forward to 2024, where we plan to strengthen the Advisory's sense of community with more exciting house challenges. The focus will be on student collaboration and ownership. Students from all three houses and across both Primary and Secondary schools work closer together to make house challenges even more fun!

Winner



XUAN WU 玄武

Primary

2023 was a year of fun-filled physical and mental challenges for our Primary students, including Maths, the Amazing Race, Just Dance, Ball Skills Bonanza, Tug of War, and much more! Each of these events brought learners from Early Years to Grade 5 together to work as a team, actively engaging in activities designed to build house spirit and foster creative thinking – all while making new connections and having fun in the process!



Secondary

Throughout this year, our journey in the Secondary House was marked by diverse inter-advisory challenges, from recreating sports images to Guess Who? Guess Where? and participating in emoji-themed quizzes, a parachute challenge, and holiday-themed charades.



Alumni



Our 30th anniversary year of celebration went on until October 2023, inspiring NIS alumni meets and gatherings around the world. We were thrilled to host our first-ever NIS Alumni Reunion in Melbourne, Australia in March for a large gathering of Lions in King's Domain Park.

Another highlight was our 30th Anniversary Charity Gala, where our first School Director, Gez Hayden, was in attendance with our longest-serving teachers, Karen Orteza and Angel Chen.

With an engaged and active online community of over 2,500, the NIS Alumni Network continues to grow.



Operations and Facilities

The HUB Project

The largest and most ambitious NIS construction project in recent memory, the HUB broke ground in 2023. It will be a centralised space on our campus that elevates and amplifies learning – more than a library, or a technology space, it will be 3 levels of flexible, agile spaces for learning that exemplify Student Voice and Student Choice.

For the first half of 2023-24, our campus was abuzz with activity while the same level of exceptional education went on uninterrupted for our students and teachers.



The Centre 2nd Floor Renovation and Skyways @The Centre

The hallway and café area of the Centre's second floor underwent a major renovation over the summer, with the most exciting development being the unveiling of Skyways@The Centre, a local favorite of our community in a brighter and more vibrant space with brand new furniture.



New Classroom Look

From Primary to Secondary, all our classrooms were upgraded with new, standardised whiteboards and display walls, which have helped to promote an even more interactive, collaborative learning environment.



Main Firefighting MEP Upgrade

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety and preparedness, we upgraded our school's firefighting MEP system with a new water tank and fire hydrants.

These additions have bolstered safety by ensuring compliance with the most up to date fire regulations, increasing water capacity for emergencies, and enhancing the reliability and speed of fire response mechanisms.





An
**Inclusive
Learning
Community**

Nanjing International School
南京国际外籍人员子女学校
Xueheng Lu 8, Xianlin University City
Qixia District
Nanjing PRC 210023
Tel: +86 25 8589 9111

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www.nischina.org

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