



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



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Dr. Catriona Moran
Head of School

Dear SSIS Community,

It is with great pride and excitement that I share the Annual Report of the remarkable achievements of the 2023-2024 school year.

This past school year marked one of the most significant milestones in the history of our school – the simultaneous opening of two new state-of-the-art facilities, the new Middle School and the STEAM Design Center. Our new facilities, along with new programs such as Introduction to Generative AI, Middle School Strings, Textile and Fashion, and Independent Scientific Research, are a testament to our commitment to providing extraordinary learning opportunities for your children.

Throughout this Annual Report, you will find that the past year was exceptional for university acceptances. SSIS students secured placements at prestigious institutions across the world, with the most acceptances in the United States, Australia, Korea, the Netherlands, and Canada. The quality of an SSIS education was further recognized when our school received a Certificate of Merit from the Department of Education and Training.

To further foster innovative learning opportunities for our students, we also introduced two key new positions— Educational Technology Director Don McNamee and Elementary STEAM Coach Phú Hua. We also welcomed new Middle School Principal, Dan Kerr. Each of them have already had a significant impact on our community.

The 2023-2024 school year was a wonderful year of collaborations. With the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), we further solidified our commitment to creating opportunities for students that extend well beyond our campus. But many things happened on campus as well, such as our first-ever Vietnam DECA Saigon Fall Competition, where our student DECA chapter brought together 11 schools from Ho Chi Minh City. We also launched STEAMovate SSIS, an event that showcased the latest innovations in learning, with students, parents, and teachers coming together to collaborate and experiment with new ideas.

As always, none of this would be possible without the ongoing partnership of our community. Your support and engagement drive our continued growth and success. I encourage you to explore the many achievements and milestones detailed in this Annual Report, and I thank you for your unwavering commitment to Saigon South International School.

Together, we look forward to another year of growth, innovation, and success.

All good wishes,

Dr. Catriona Moran
Head of School

OUR HISTORY

Twenty-seven 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.

	<p>Academic Excellence</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>Sense of Self</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>Respect for All</p> <p>A perspective that each individual is a person of worth.</p>
	<p>Balance in Life</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>Dedicated Service</p> <p>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.</p>



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)

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL & NEW STEAM DESIGN CENTER OPEN

On May 9, we officially opened our two new, state-of-the-art facilities. The event featured Middle School Principal Dan Kerr, High School Principal Jennifer Mendes, Associate Head of School Wai Mun Fong, Director of Education Nguyễn Văn Hiếu, SSIS Board Chair Gayle Tsien, Head of School Dr. Catriona Moran, Phu My Hung President Gary Tseng, and Student Council Presidents Joram and Justine.

The 11,000 sqm Middle School boasts innovative spaces like a two-story black box theater, a research hub, break-out rooms, and a double gymnasium; purpose-built spaces perfect for collaborative, project-based learning.

The 7,000 sqm STEAM Design Center, uniquely equipped with cutting-edge science labs, art rooms, and maker spaces for our high school students, will enable a new rich offering of courses in AI, Robotics, and App Development. [In last year's showcase video](#), we learned what these new facilities will make possible, as the only school in Vietnam to offer such an impressive future-ready education.



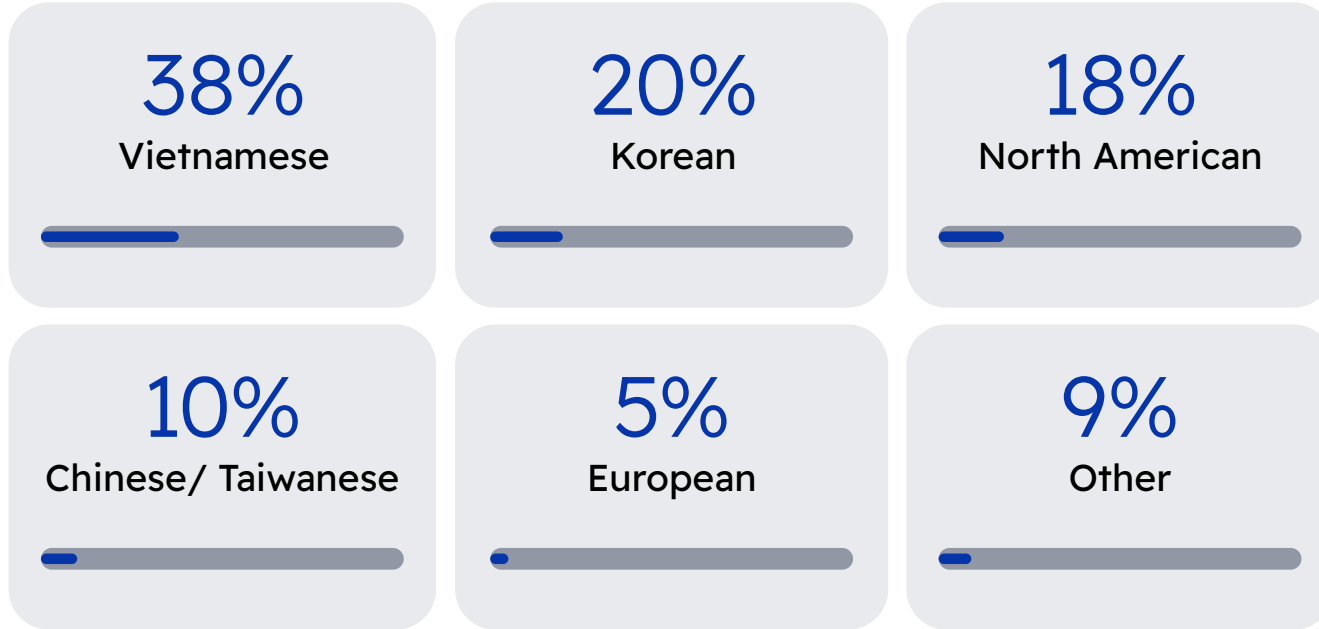
Photo: Matthew Millman



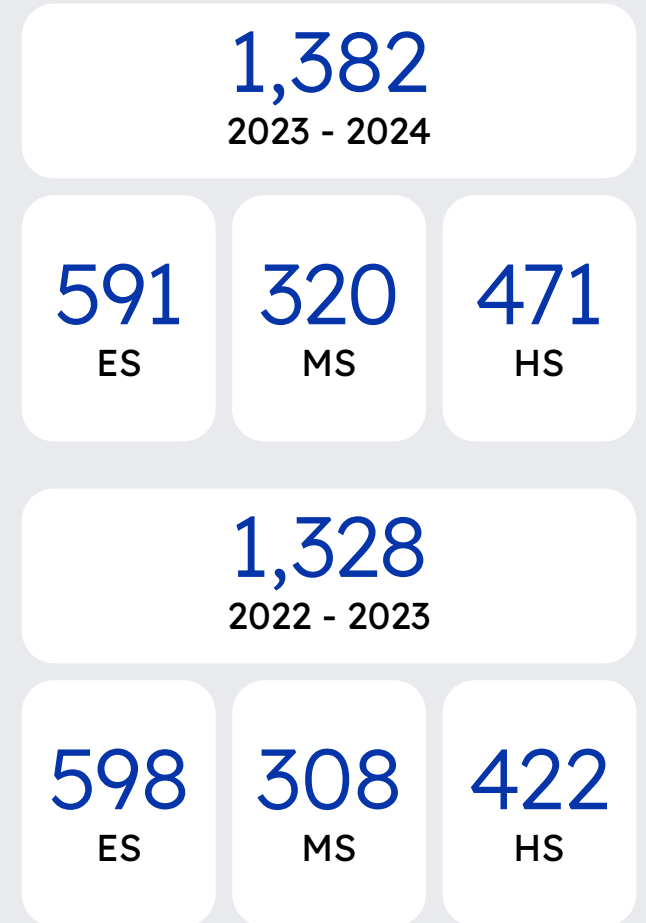
Photo: Matthew Millman

OUR STUDENTS

45 NATIONALITIES



STUDENT POPULATION



OUR TEACHERS

25 NATIONALITIES

49%

American

13%

Canadian



17%

European



8%

Asian

8%

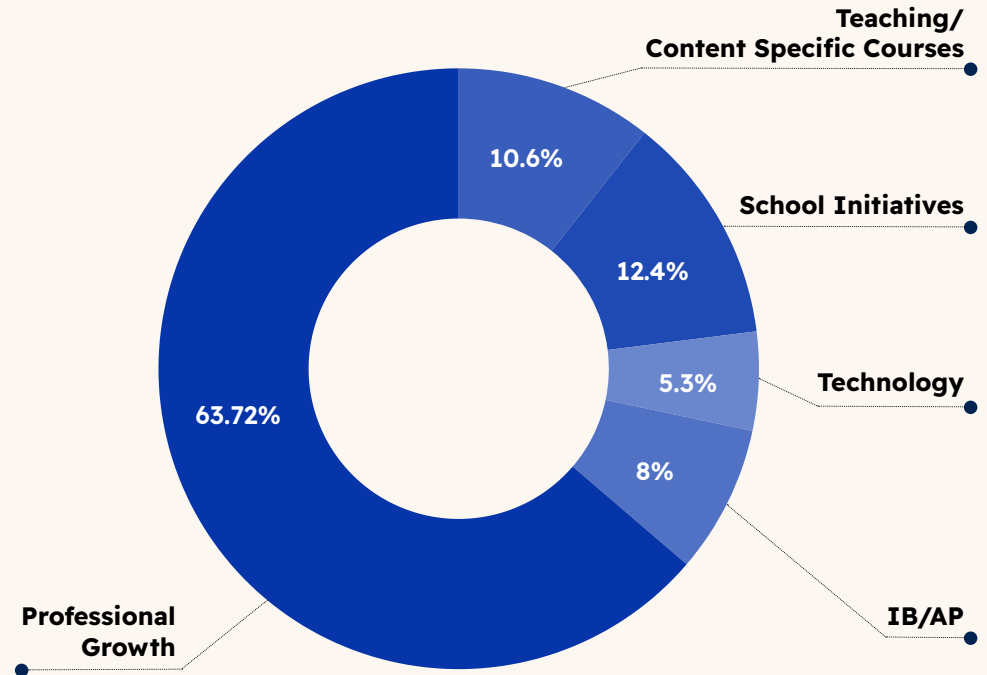
Other

5%

Australian



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES



HIGHEST DEGREES



30%

BA



65%

MA



5%

Ph.D

AVERAGE YEARS - TEACHERS



Average Years of Experience

17.5 Years

Average Years at SSIS

4 Years

AVERAGE YEARS - ADMIN



Average Years of Experience

26 Years

Average Years at SSIS

5 Years

CLASS OF 2024 - UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

* Multiple acceptances

NORTH AMERICA

Agnes Scott College
 American University
 Arizona State University Campus Immersion*
 Auburn University
 Baylor University
 Bentley University*
 Boston University*
 Bryant University
 Bryn Mawr College
 Bucknell University
 California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo
 Carleton University
 Case Western Reserve University*
 Chapman University
 Clark University
 Clemson University
 College of the Holy Cross*
 Columbia University in the City of New York
 Concordia University
 CUNY Baruch College
 Davidson College
 Depaul University
 Depauw University
 Dickinson College*
 Drexel University*
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Daytona Beach
 Emory University*
 Florida State University
 Fordham University*
 Franklin and Marshall College
 George Washington University*
 Georgia Institute of Technology*
 Gettysburg College
 Gonzaga University
 Grinnell College
 Hamline University
 Hampshire College
 High Point University
 Indiana University-Bloomington*
 Ithaca College
 Johns Hopkins University*
 Lafayette College*
 Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
 Michigan State University*

Middlebury College
 Mount Holyoke College
 McGill University*
 McMaster University
 New York University*
 Northeastern University*
 Northwestern University
 Ohio State University*
 Ohio Wesleyan University
 Otis College of Art and Design
 Pennsylvania State University*
 Pratt Institute
 Purdue University*
 Queen's University
 Rice University
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rutgers University-Camden
 Rutgers University-New Brunswick*
 Rutgers University-Newark
 San Diego State University*
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 Seattle University
 Southern Methodist University*
 St. Catherine University
 St. Olaf College
 Stony Brook University
 Temple University
 Texas A&M University*
 Texas Christian University
 The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 The University of Texas at Dallas
 Tufts University
 The University of British Columbia*
 The University of British Columbia - Okanagan
 Toronto Metropolitan University
 University of Alberta*
 University of Calgary
 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 Central Florida
 University of Colorado Boulder

University of Connecticut
 University of Florida*
 University of Georgia*
 University of Illinois Chicago
 University of Illinois Urbana, Champaign*
 University of Maryland, College Park*
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst*
 University of Massachusetts, Boston
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
 University of Michigan-Dearborn
 University of Michigan-Flint
 University of Minnesota-Duluth
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
 University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus*
 University of Puget Sound
 University of San Diego
 University of San Francisco*
 University of Southern California*
 University of the Pacific
 University of Toledo
 University of Toronto*
 University of Victoria*
 University of Virginia-Main Campus*
 University of Washington-Seattle Campus*
 University of Wisconsin-Madison*
 Vanderbilt University*
 Virginia Commonwealth University*
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*
 Western Washington University*
 Wilfrid Laurier University*
 William & Mary*
 York University*

EUROPE

Buckinghamshire New University
 Cardiff Metropolitan University
 Edhec Business School*
 Edinburgh Napier University
 Erasmus University College
 Erasmus University Rotterdam*
 John Cabot University
 King's College London, University of London*
 Leiden University
 Leiden University College the Hague
 London Metropolitan University
 Maastricht University

NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences
 Royal Holloway, University of London
 Sheffield Hallam University
 The Hague University of Applied Sciences
 Tilburg University
 The University of Edinburgh*
 University of Amsterdam*
 University of Bath
 University of Bristol
 University of Glasgow
 University of Manchester*
 University of Sheffield*
 University of St Andrews
 University of Warwick
 Utrecht University
 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*
 Webster University Leiden*

AUSTRALIA

Griffith University
 Monash University*
 The University of Adelaide
 The University of Sydney*
 University of Melbourne*
 University of New South Wales
 University of South Australia
 University of Technology, Sydney

ASIA

Korea University
 Monash University Malaysia
 RMIT University - Vietnam
 Seoul National University
 The Chinese University of Hong Kong
 The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*
 Yonsei University

CLASS OF 2024 MATRICULATION

58%	8%	15%
North America	Europe	Australia
16%	3%	
Asia	Gap Year/Military Service	

ATHLETICS

Sports Results

SISAC

City Champions Winners

U19 Boys Volleyball
U19 Girls Volleyball
U19 Girls Badminton
U19 Girls Basketball
HS/MS Track & Field
ES Track & Field
U13 Girls Volleyball
U15 Girls Badminton

City Champions 2nd Place

U19 Boys Badminton
U19 Boys Basketball
U15 Boys Soccer
U15 Girls Soccer
U13 Boys Badminton
U15 Boys Badminton
U11 Boys Soccer
U11 Boys Basketball

MRISA

MRISA Sr.

Boys Soccer
3rd Place
Girls Soccer
2nd Place
Boys Basketball
3rd Place
Girls Basketball
3rd Place

MRISA Jr.

Boys Basketball
2nd Place
Girls Basketball
2nd Place
Boys Volleyball
2nd Place
Girls Volleyball
3rd Place
Boys Soccer
3rd Place

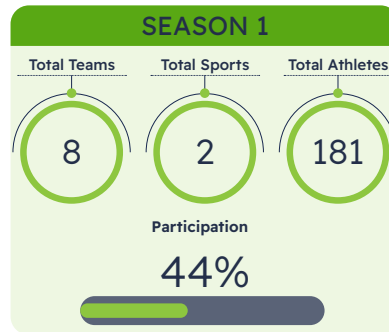
SEASAC

Division 1

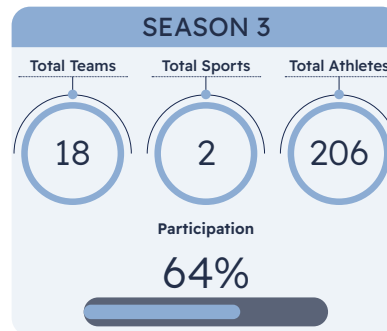
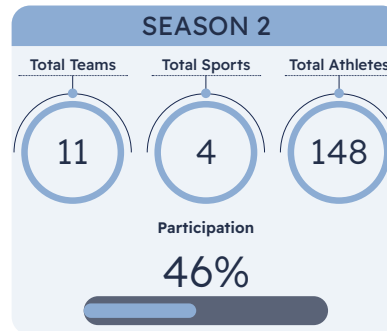
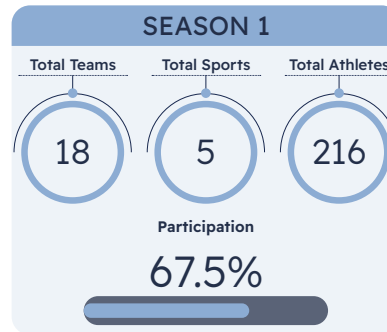
Volleyball Boys & Girls
3rd Place
Golf Boys
1st Place
Badminton Boys
3rd Place

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*

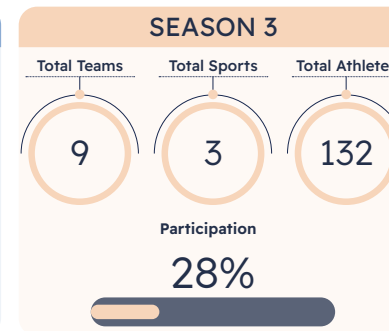
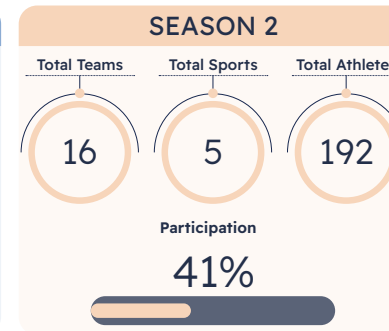
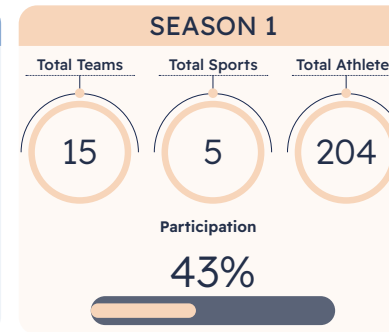
* Athletics only offered G3-G5



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



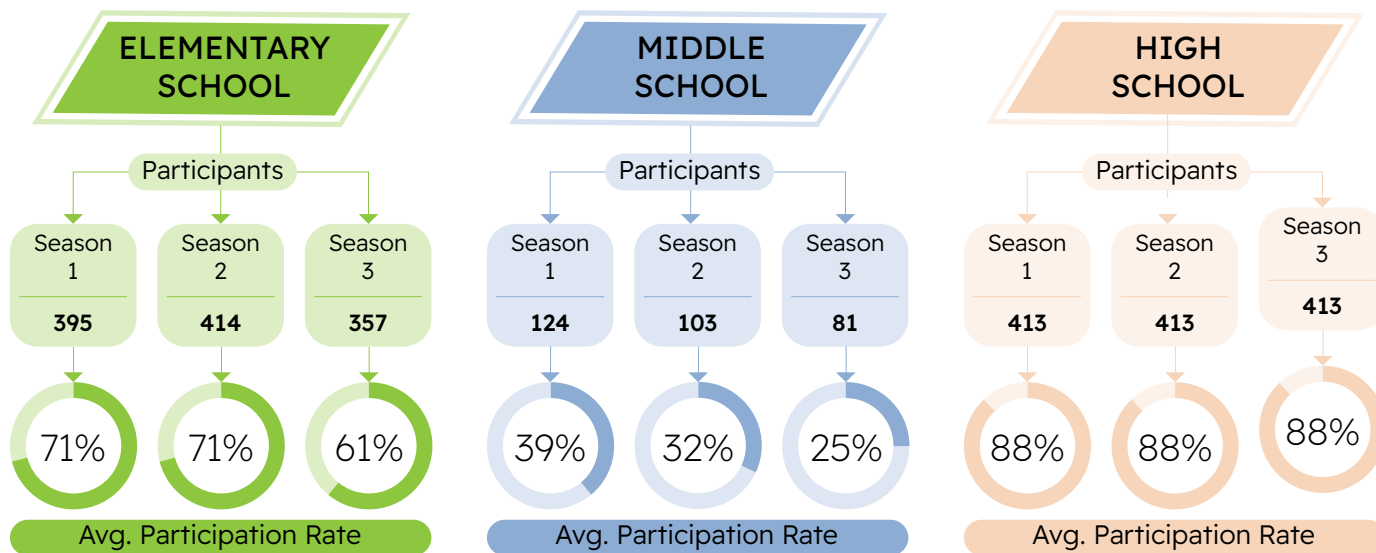
AQUATICS



ES	Semester 3	Total Students 49	
	MS HS	Semester 1	Total Students 55
		Semester 2	Total Students 41

ASAs OFFERED				
Season	S1	S2	S3	
ES	62	60	58	
MS	17	20	11	
HS	54	54	54	

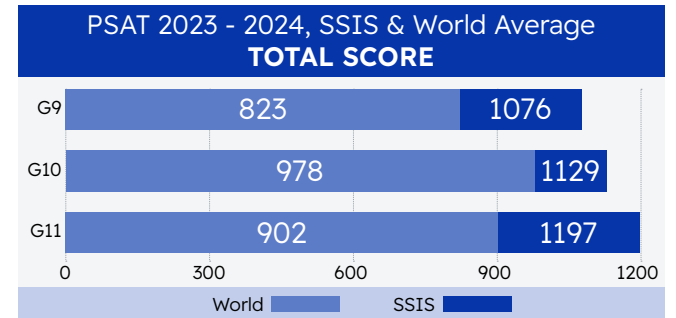
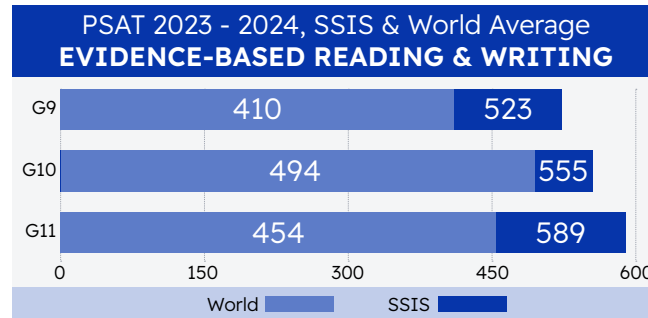
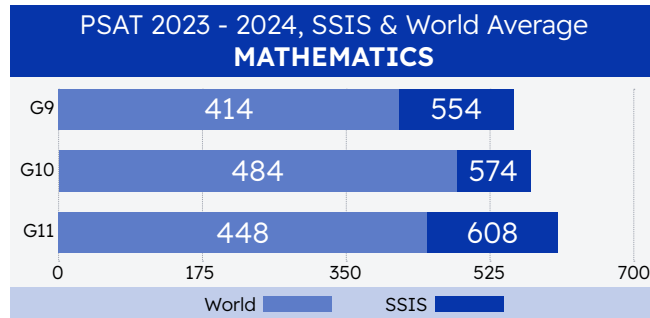
AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



PSAT

The PSAT was devised by the College Board to help students with overall preparedness for the SAT. 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.

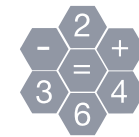
SAT EXAM RESULTS

Evidence-based Reading and Writing Average



658

Math Average



683

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 Service (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 mentioned above.



IB RESULTS, MAY 2024		
SCHOOL STATISTICS	40 IB Diploma candidates registered	35 Average points obtained by Diploma candidates
	40 Candidates awarded the IB Diploma	44 Highest points awarded to a Diploma candidate
	250 Subject exams taken	5.54 Diploma candidates' average exam score

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	5.1	5.7	6.0	7.0	4.7	4.9	Biology	6.6	5.0	7.0	6.0	4.4	4.2
Vietnamese: Literature (self-taught)	N/A	5.7	N/A	6.0	N/A	5.5	Chemistry	5.5	6.0	7.0	7.0	4.7	4.2
Chinese B: Mandarin	*	5.4	*	7.0	N/A	5.7	Physics	5.2	4.3	7.0	7.0	4.9	4.2
Mandarin AB	N/A	6.2	N/A	7.0	N/A	5.1	Mathematics Analysis & Approaches	5.6	4.9	7.0	7.0	4.9	4.5
Spanish AB	N/A	6.5	N/A	7.0	N/A	4.9	Mathematics Applications & Interpretation	4.9	N/A	5.0	N/A	4.4	N/A
Spanish B	N/A	5.8	N/A	7.0	N/A	4.9	Music	N/A	4.0	N/A	4.0	N/A	4.3
Economics	5.7	6.7	7.0	7.0	5.1	4.8	Theatre	5.5	5.0	6.0	5.0	5.0	4.6
Env. & Soc.	N/A	5.3	N/A	7.0	N/A	4.2	Visual Arts	6.2	4.3	7.0	5.0	4.2	3.9
Psychology	5.6	5.8	7.0	6.0	4.8	4.4							

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)
2-D Art & Design	4.6	5.0	3.3
Biology	3.8	5.0	3.2
Calculus AB	3.6	5.0	3.2
Calculus BC	4.2	5.0	3.9
Chemistry	3.9	5.0	3.3
Computer Science A	3.4	5.0	3.2
Computer Science Principles	3.9	5.0	2.9
Comparative Government & Politics	3.9	5.0	3.2
English Language & Composition	3.0	5.0	2.8
English Literature & Composition	4.2	5.0	3.2
Human Geography	3.8	5.0	2.8
Macroeconomics	4.0	5.0	3.1
Microeconomics	3.9	5.0	3.2
Physics 1	3.1	5.0	2.6
Psychology	4.3	5.0	3.0
Statistics	4.0	5.0	3.0
US History	4.4	5.0	3.2



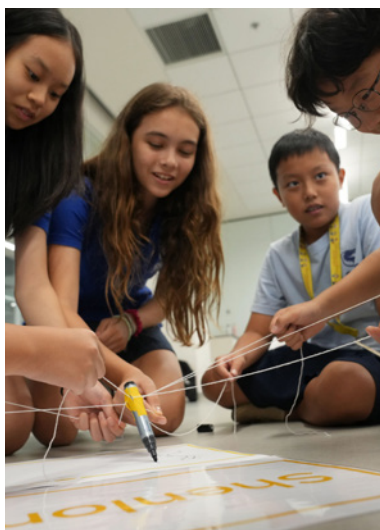
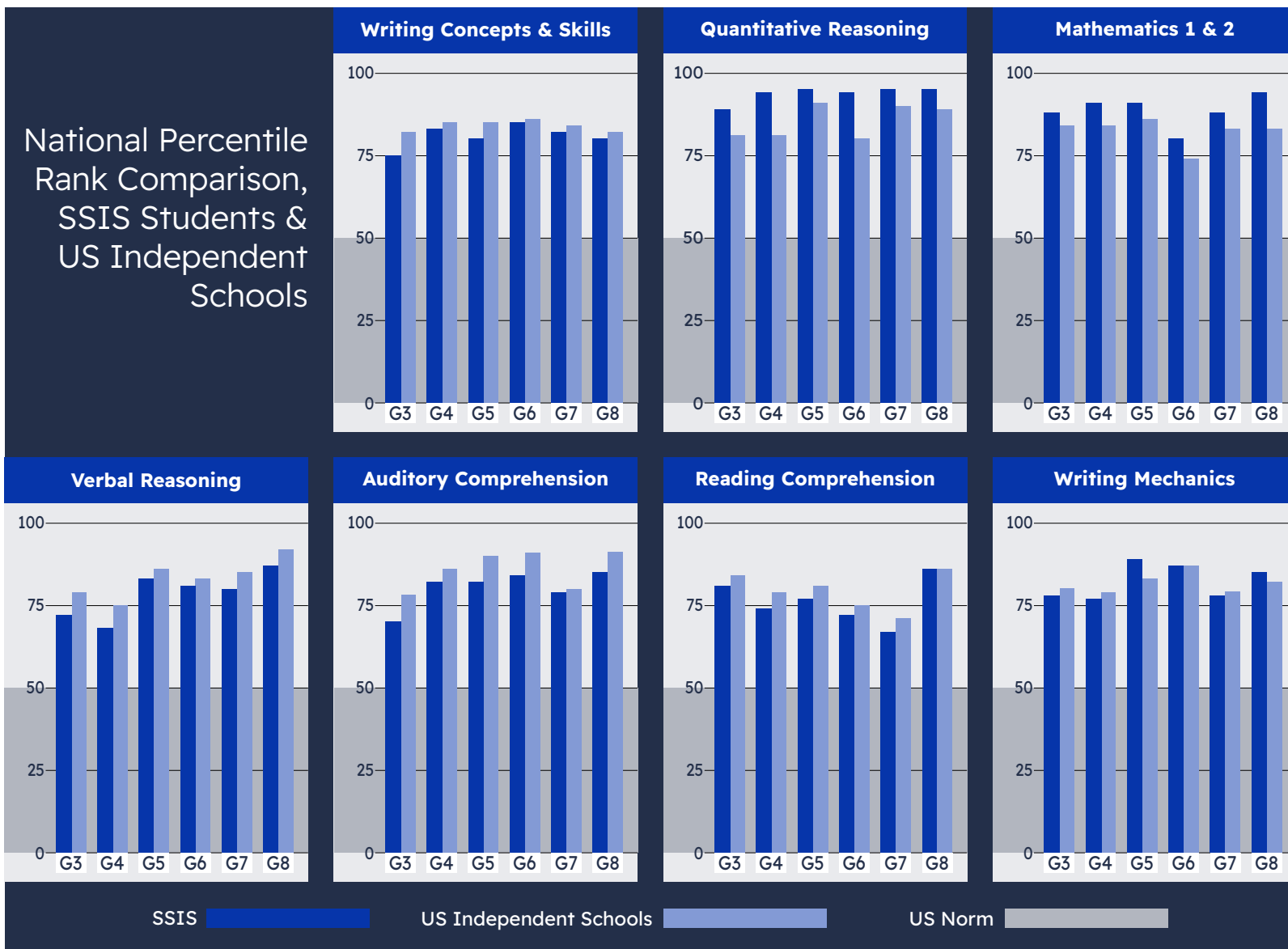
Photo: Matthew Millman

AP RESULTS, MAY 2024		
SCHOOL STATISTICS	90% Scored 3 or higher	56 AP Scholars with Distinction (Highest Distinction)
	243 Students registered	27 AP Scholars with Honors
	552 Exams taken	37 AP Scholars

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.

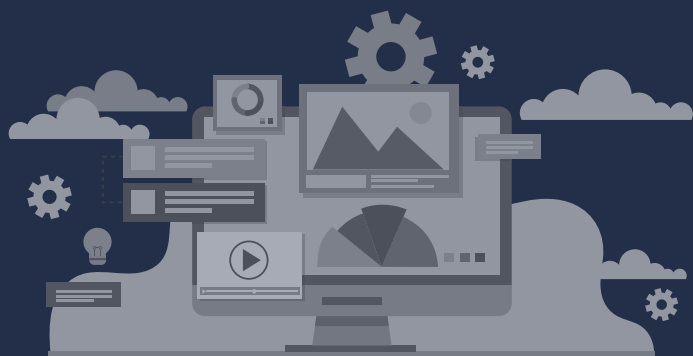


COMMUNICATIONS

At SSIS, keeping our community informed is a top priority. The Parent Portal is a one-stop hub where families can easily access everything from school calendars to the weekly Dragon Digest and Head of School updates.

We value clear and open communication, the feedback from our community survey helps us continually improve how we connect with and support our families.

WEBSITE TRAFFIC



328,512 Users
(number of people who visited our site)

1,523,352 Page Views
(view of a page on the site)



HOS Updates
29



Dragon Digests
38



Parent Partnership Sessions
34



University Visits
78



SeeSaw Student Journal Items
29,767



SSIS Stories
29



Parent Portal Posts
172



Facebook Followers
13,790



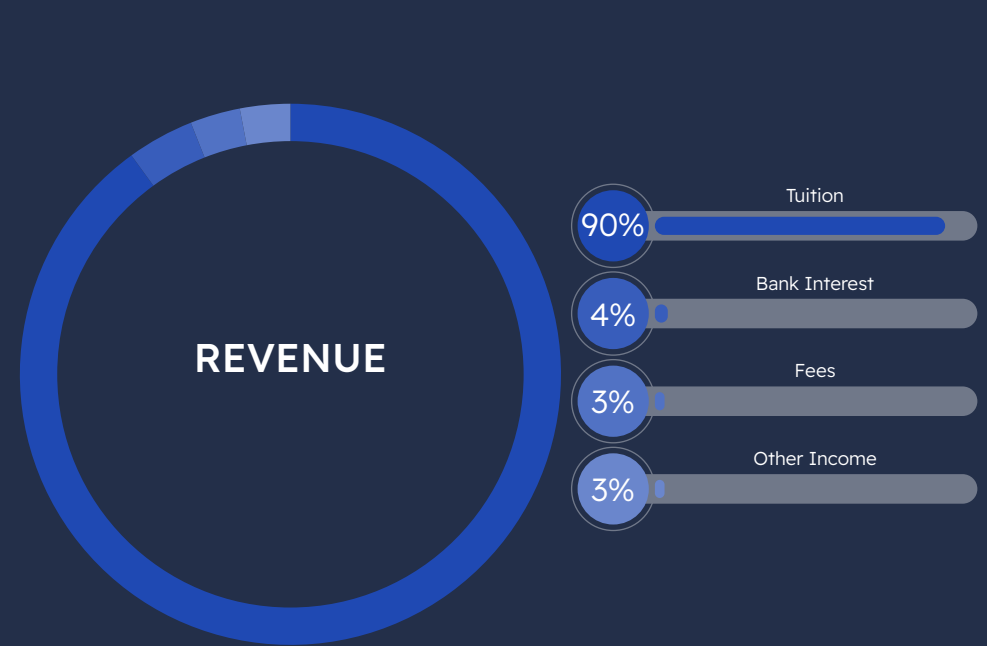
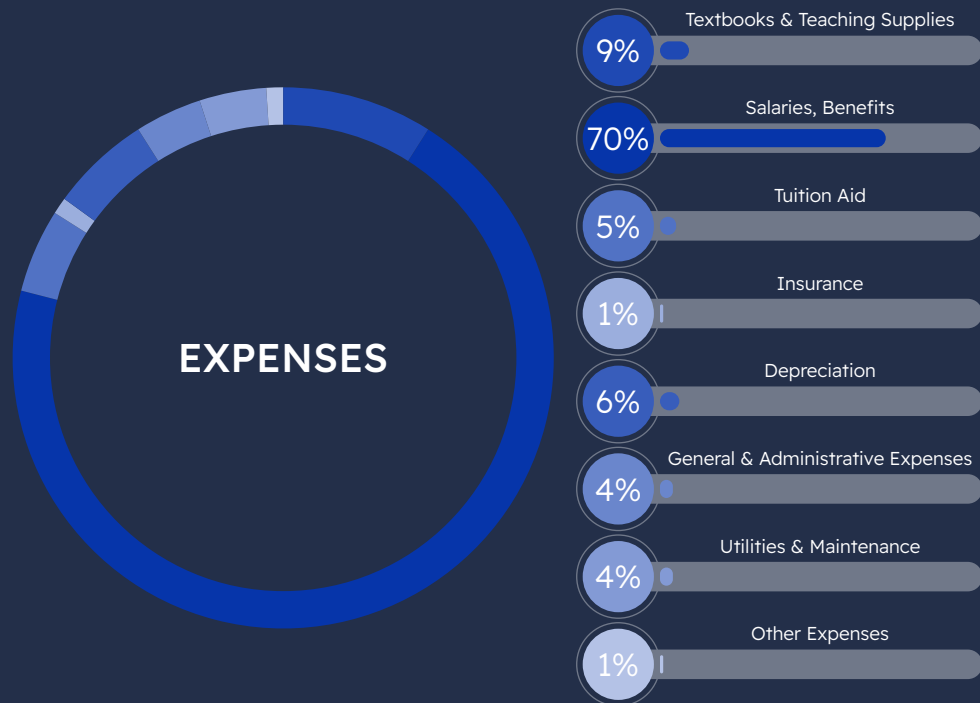
Instagram Followers
4,910



YouTube subscribers
2,740

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.



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

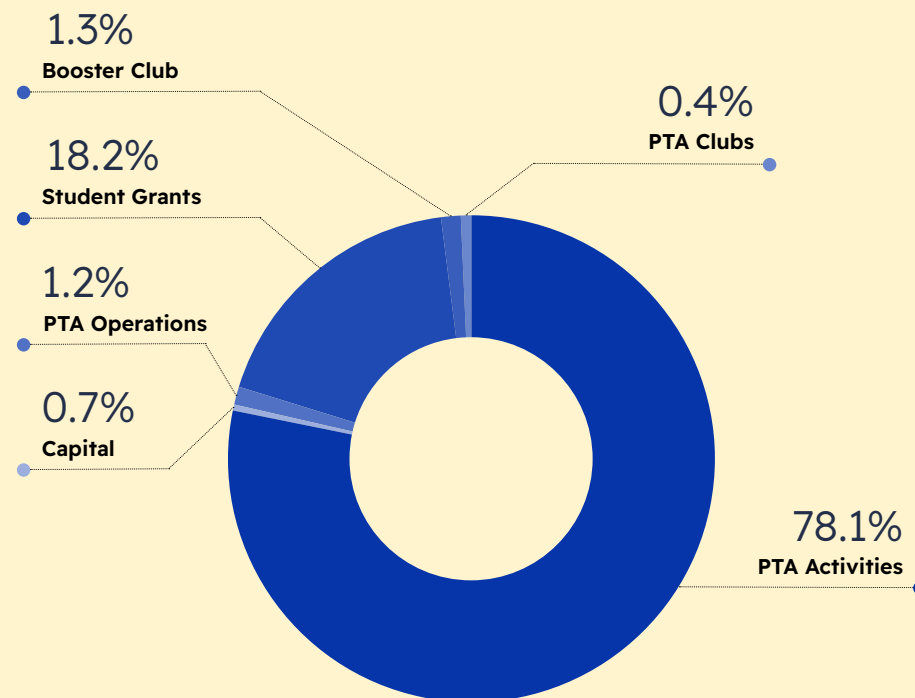
The year kicked off with an inspiring PTA Welcome Coffee, bringing together over 120 parents. This event set a positive tone for what would be a year filled with moments that celebrated the strength and unity of our SSIS community.

At the heart of these efforts was our dedicated PTA Board, which included an executive team, divisional representatives, and a booster club leader. Their hard work and leadership were key in organizing five large-scale community events, including the highly successful Family Fun Day, with more than 1,700 community members. We celebrate and thank each of them for their tireless dedication in making these gatherings possible.

In addition to these community-wide events, the PTA organized 13 parent clubs, for parents to connect and engage with one another outside of school. Covering a wide range of interests, from the Book Club to multiple language clubs, the clubs averaged between 10 to 20 parents each.



EXPENSES



INTERNSHIPS

31 students successfully finished a 3-week internship across 12 different companies in HCMC



ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

This year, we continued our focus on strengthening our alumni connections. We hosted a December reunion, a New York luncheon with the Head of School, and meet-ups in Singapore and the Netherlands, fostering a global network of SSIS graduates. The Class of 2022 received personalized cards from their high school teachers, along with SSIS Alumni merchandise, upon updating their contact details with our newly established Alumni Office. We also launched the SSIS Alumni Newsletter, keeping alumni informed and engaged. Whether visiting campus or connecting from afar, our alumni remain an important part of SSIS.





SSiS
SAIGON SOUTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL