



SSiS
SAIGON SOUTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Welcome to
Head of School PTA Coffee
School Year 2026-2027

August 13, 2026



Did you attend the session?

If so, please take a moment to fill out this short survey.





CATRIONA MORAN

Head of School



How Many Years Has Your Family Been at SSIS?

This is our first year

1 - 5 years

More than 5 years





What Division Is Your Child In?

Elementary

Middle School

High School

OR more than 1 division

**Share one thing that your child has
shared with you since they started
the school year.**

Our Senior Leadership Team



DAN KERR

Associate Head of
School





DAN LONG

Director of Activities
and Community
Engagement





AIMEE FLEMING

Director of Teaching
& Learning





TANYA OLANDER

Director of Strategic
Communications





CORY DICKSON

Director of Admissions





GRANT WEAVER

Director of
Technology and
Facilities





DON MCNAMEE

Education Technology
Director





NICKY MCNAMEE

Head of Finance and
Operations





DAN SMITH

HS Principal





CHAD MCGARTLIN

HS Associate Principal





LIZ TUCKER

MS Principal





PHIL WENDEL

MS Associate Principal





MELANIE SYLVESTER

ES Principal





EDWARD GOLDSTEIN

ES Associate Principal





KRISTY CSENSICH

Lower School Associate
Principal





Dr. Priscilla Bade-White
Director of Counseling and
Psychological Services



Kerry Brint
Health Office Manager

The School Council



GAYLE TSIEN

Board Chair





Arthur Ting
Chairman CT&D



Frances Ba
PMH Development



Gary Tseng
General President
PMH



Catriona Moran
Head of School, SSIS

Our Amazing Faculty

77.1%

hold a Master's
degree or
higher

18.8

avg. years of
teaching
experience

25

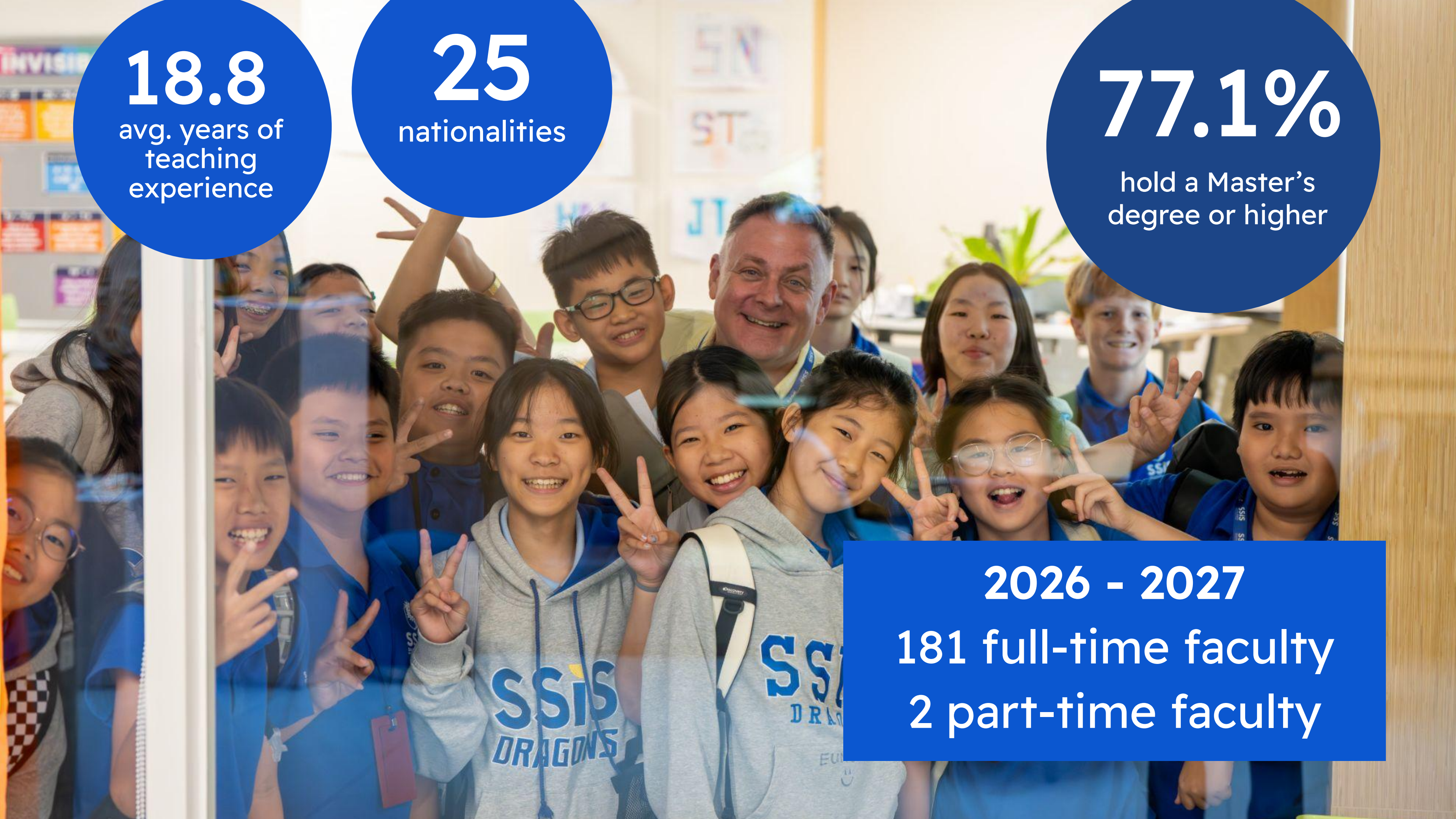
nationalities

2026-2027

181 full-time faculty

2 part-time faculty





18.8

avg. years of
teaching
experience

25

nationalities

77.1%

hold a Master's
degree or higher

2026 - 2027

**181 full-time faculty
2 part-time faculty**

SSIS New Faculty 2026-2027





Welcome New Faculty!



**New
Faculty
Bios**



Rebecca Martin
ES Drama Teacher



Susannah Wilcox
ES Grade 4 Teacher



Wendy Yoong
ES Grade 3 Teacher



Garam Kim
ES Kindergarten Teacher



Nadia Smith
ES Librarian



Liz Meller-Maddever
ES Grade 1 Teacher



Juan Cairos
ES Grade 2 Teacher



Steven Di Luca
ES Grade 4 Teacher



Welcome New Faculty!



**New
Faculty
Bios**



See Wen Lim
MS Mandarin Teacher



Craig Ortner
MS/HS Learning Support
Math Teacher



Chris Creighton
MS Social Studies Teacher



Kerrie Reid
MS Drama Teacher



Becky Taylor
MS Math/Science Teacher



Jonathan Meinzinger
MS PE Teacher (part-time)



Amy Keus
MS Music Teacher



Noah Ballard
MS Social Studies Teacher



Liz Tucker
MS Principal



Welcome New Faculty!



**New
Faculty
Bios**



Amanda Szwarc
HS Science Teacher



Brandon Iwanyshyn
HS Science Teacher



Ann Durham
HS Learning Support
Teacher



Ann Van Den Borne
HS PE Teacher



Cassie O'Brien
HS Math Teacher



Daniel Niedringhaus
HS History/TOK Teacher



Welcome New Faculty!



**New
Faculty
Bios**



Wyatt Wilcox
Assistant Director of
Teaching & Learning

SSIS FOUNDERS



Ferdinand P. Tsien



Lawrence S. Ting

Our 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



Academic
Excellence



Sense of
Self



Respect for
All



Balance in
Life



Dedicated
Service

Our Students

- 1,600 anticipated
- 55 nationalities (+7)



The Student Experience



Summer Debate Championship in Richmond, VA



SSIS English Camp



Internships

Rising Seniors
Placed

39

Companies

16





Congratulations!
Class of **2026**

UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

Stanford
University

 **JOHNS HOPKINS**
UNIVERSITY

 **Northwestern**
University

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF**
CHICAGO

 **Penn**
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Duke
UNIVERSITY

UCLA

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

 **RICE UNIVERSITY**

 **UNIVERSITY OF**
NOTRE DAME

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

M **UNIVERSITY OF**
MICHIGAN

THE NEW SCHOOL
PARSONS

 **THE UNIVERSITY**
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

HAVERFORD
COLLEGE

 **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

USC **UNIVERSITY OF**
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

I **UNIVERSITY OF**
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

 **Pomona**
College

P **PURDUE**
UNIVERSITY

GT **Georgia Institute**
of Technology

Imperial College
London

UCL

 **THE UNIVERSITY**
of EDINBURGH

MANCHESTER
1824
The University of Manchester

 **University of**
BRISTOL

 **University of**
St Andrews

KAIST
한국과학기술원
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

 **서울대학교**
SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

 **UNIVERSITY OF**
TORONTO

 **McGill**
UNIVERSITY

 **THE UNIVERSITY**
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

 **Universiteit**
Leiden

 **UNIVERSITEIT**
VAN AMSTERDAM

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF**
MELBOURNE

 **國立臺灣大學**
National Taiwan University

 **Università Commerciale**
Luigi Bocconi

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF**
SYDNEY

 **Utrecht**
University

 **香港科技大學**
THE HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

 **香港大學**
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

 **SSiS**
SAIGON SOUTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Senior Profiles: No Two Paths the Same

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

I think your own perspective is not the only one, and it's not always the best one - that's something I really try to remember.

- Derek

UCLA Derek
UCLA

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

When I create art, it's one of the only things that feels truly mine. I have full control, and I love seeing how it comes together.

- Chloe

PARSONS Chloe
Parsons School of Design, The New School

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

I didn't want to idealize what pursuing business would be like. Having these internships, I was able to be more confident in the decision.

- Aru

UPenn Aru
UPenn

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

In every corner of the school, I found a space, a person who really allowed me to push beyond my current perspectives and think about things in a whole new way.

- Annie

UC Berkeley Annie
UC Berkeley

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

If you're passionate and want to help your community, create the platform. Someone needs to do it.

- Jack

The Ohio State University Jack
The Ohio State University

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

I was really interested in how each country's history and demographics influence their system of government and their struggles right now.

- Mya

University of St Andrews Mya
University of St Andrews

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

Every time I went away, I came back knowing I could do a little more on my own.

- Phuong

Haverford College Phuong
Haverford College

SSiS SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2026

The
SENIOR PROFILES

Writing helps me understand the world around me and myself - and that makes it so much easier to do anything else.

- Tobin

University of British Columbia Tobin
University of British Columbia



Student Panel

“One thing SSIS should never change is the sense of community. We are always there for one another, and that is important.” Leo, Grade 4



AP Results 2026

Students
scoring perfect
score 43%

SSIS Average Score

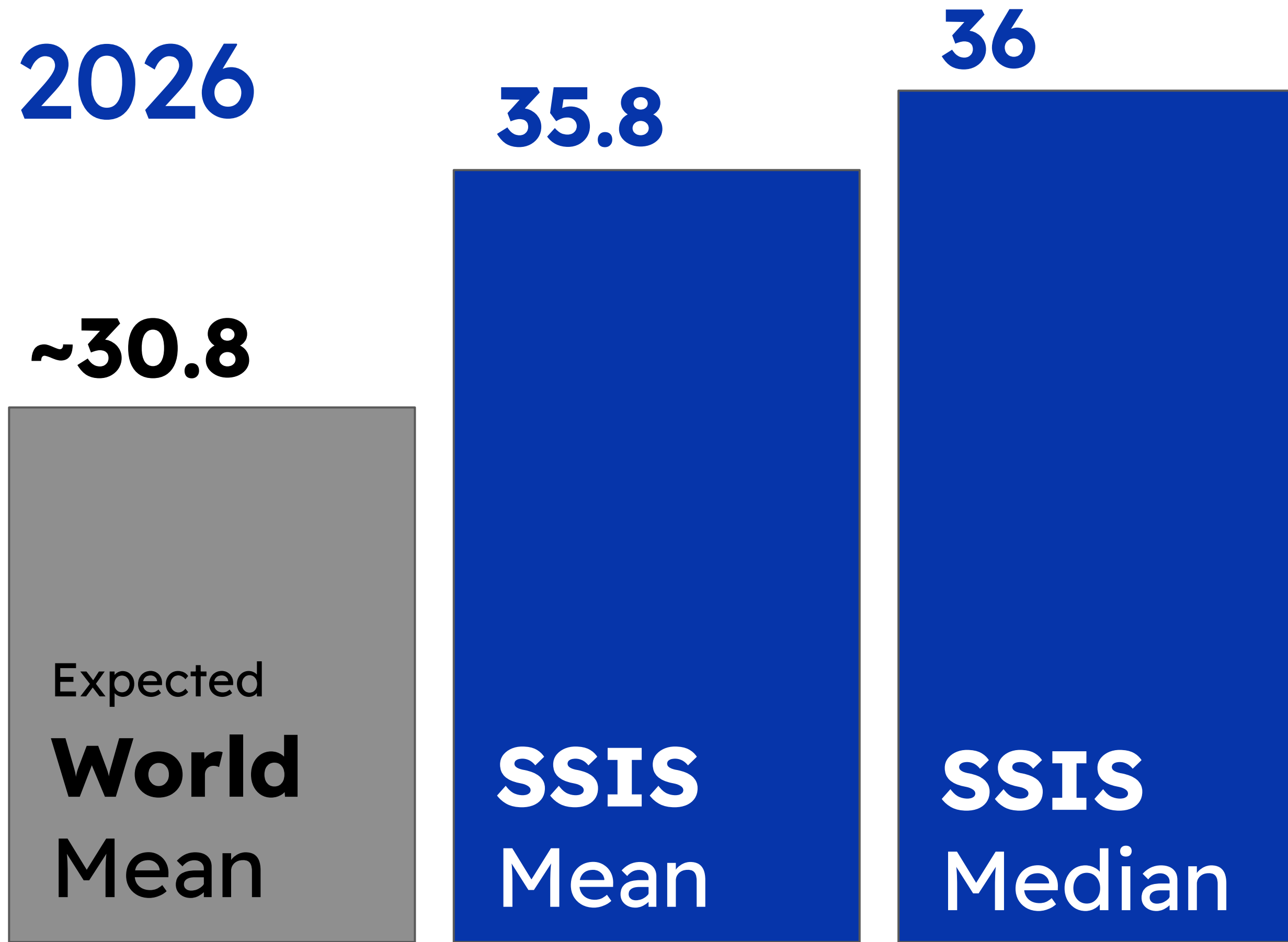
4.06

a

SSIS % with
Scores of 3+

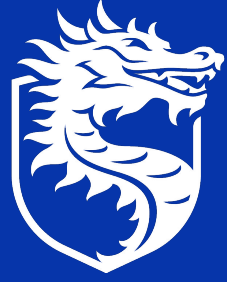
92%

IBDP Results 2026



**SSIS Highest
Score 44**
(2 students)

**Students
scoring 40+**
(20.4%)



Our Strategic Plan

A vision for what SSIS will be in 2030 in relation to people, programs, and places



Our Four Strategic Areas



Area 1 — Program

Programs and experiences that prepare students for their future, built on our location and resources.

Area 3 — Well-being &

Belonging
Social and emotional competencies, self-awareness, and well-being practices that help students thrive.

Area 2 — Infrastructure

People, facilities, and systems that grow to meet our mission, fulfill our strategic plan, and support student learning.

Area 4 — Community & Outreach

Community commitment and engagement that supports student development and the wider community.

Area 1 - Program

- Literacy (reading and writing) & Public Speaking
- Numeracy (Math)
- Technology (STEAM, the Design Process, AI)

VISION
2030



Area 2 - Infrastructure

- Campus safety & quality
- 5-Year Capital Investment Plan
- Sustainability



Front Field Lighting

VISION
2030



HS Kiosk Extension & New Seating

VISION
2030



Area 3 - Well-being & Belonging

- **Dr. Derrick Gay**
 - Students, parents, faculty
 - Intercultural Communication
- **Digital wellness**



Digital Wellness: Modeling Schoolwide Commitment

- Choose face-to-face conversation first
- Devices away unless emergency or for teaching
- Meetings stay tech-free unless asked to use
- Greet every student personally as they enter

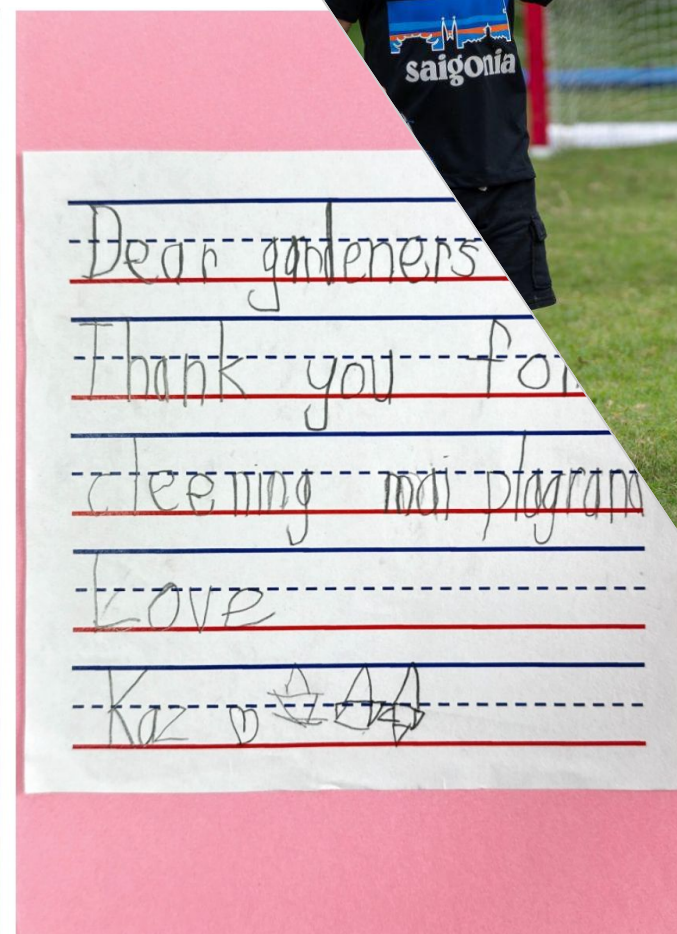
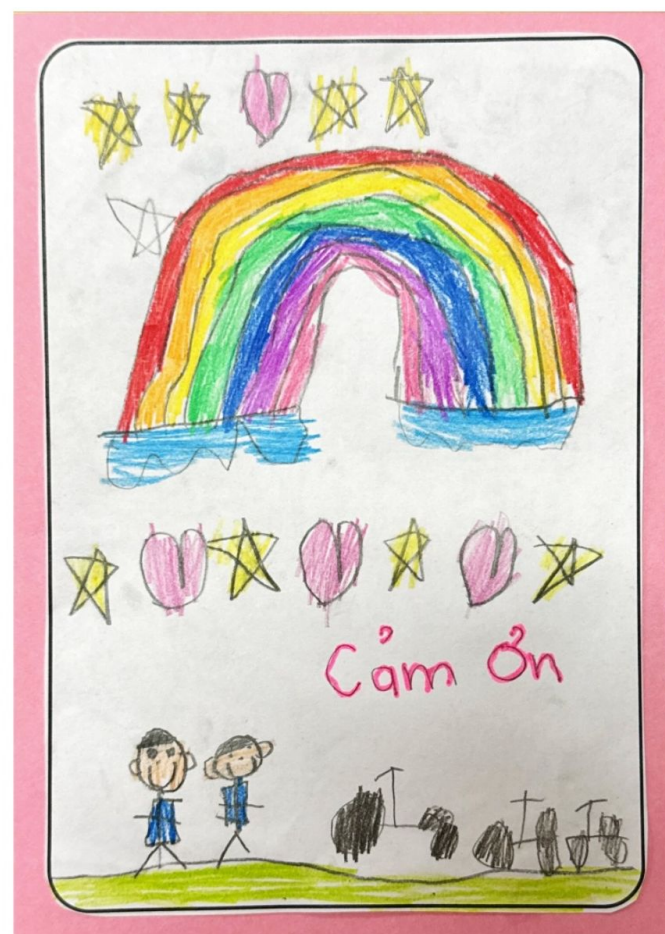
Area 4 - Community & Outreach

- **Service in Action**

Goal: Empathy-building, active service for each student at each grade level

VISION
2030





‘One of the most fascinating and important books of the past decade . . . It will change millions of lives.’

CAROL DWECK, author of *Mindset*

10 to 25

The Science of
Motivating Young People



‘Required reading for anyone who aspires to be a wise influence on the young people they care about.’

ANGELA DUCKWORTH, author of *Grit*

DR DAVID YEAGER

Cornerstone Press

Parent Book Study

Who is interested?

SSIS PTA Welcome!



SSIS Liaisons



Dr. Dan Long

Director of Activities and
Community Engagement



Wanda Luinenburg

PTA Liaison & Community
Engagement Officer

What Is the PTA?

“PTA” stands for “Parent-Teacher Association.”

The PTA is group of parents, teachers, and school staff who work together to help every student learn, grow, and enjoy school.

The PTA is a **key component** of the **positive school culture** found here at SSIS!

Family Fun Day - September 26, 2026



Halloween Party - October 31, 2026



Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon - Nov 23, 2026



Christmas Tree Lighting - Dec 11, 2026



International Day - March 13, 2027



PTA Board: Executive Team



Deepti Mahara
Secretary



Tiffany Tran
President



Kallie Le
Treasurer

pta@ssis.edu.vn

PTA Board: Divisional Reps



Devon Vo
ES Rep

ptaes@ssis.edu.vn



Thanh Phung
ES Rep



Preeti Yadav
MS Rep

ptams@ssis.edu.vn



Lina Nguyen
MS Rep



Juhae Hong
HS Rep

ptahs@ssis.edu.vn



Linh Nguyen
HS Rep

PTA Clubs



Aswini Thiyagarajan
Club Coordinator
ptaclub@ssis.edu.vn

- Art Club
- Book Club
- Coffee Club
- Cooking Club
- Pilates Club
- Spanish Language
- Chinese Language
- Sports Club
- Wine & Cheese Club
- Other...

Country Ambassadors (CAs)

China

Carole Me, Tina & Jie

Mexico

Marcela Juan

South Africa

Mireille Paul

India

Shilpa Limaye

North America

Stella Au & Quyen Long

Taiwan

Angel Chen & Vicky Lin

Japan

Rei Nguyen & Nozomi

Philippines

Candy Rivera

United Kingdom

Vacant

Korea

InYoung Lee

Russia

Ksenia Neverova

Vietnam

Khanh Ly Nguyen

Malaysia

Boon Chin



SSiS
PTA

NEW PARENT WELCOME

August 21 ♥

Let's start this journey together!



**AUG
21**



9:00 – 9:45 am
Canteen

School Lunch



**AUG
21**



10:00 – 11:00 am
Phu My Hung Tour

Supermarkets, Medical Services,
Stationery, Passport photos,
Notary service



SIGN UP BEFORE

AUGUST 18

to join the tour!



Learn more about the PTA:

<https://www.ssis.edu.vn/parent-portal>

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Discover your PTA passion! ♥

Help create unforgettable
memories & volunteer your
time at our school events.



Join the PTA Event
Volunteer Team!



Sign-Up Open until
August 31!



PTA Events

- 2026-2027 -

Together, we build a stronger school community! 



26/09

**Family
Fun Day**



31/10

Halloween



23/11

**Teacher
Appreciation Day**



11/12

**Christmas
Tree Light**



13/03

International Day



Mark your
calendar!

More details will be shared closer to each event. 





Alumni Reunions

Friday, August 14, more than
50 alumni from the Class of 2008 to the
Class of 2026 will come back to visit SSIS

U.S. (East Coast) Reunion

January 2027
(Boston)

SSIS Health Fair

Tuesday, August 18,
8:00 – 9:00 am

Top experts from 5 premier
local health organizations
(Starlight Dental, American
Eye Center, Maple, VNVC,
and Family Medical
Practice)



Upcoming Events

All School

- **Monday, August 17:**
Parent Partnership, Athletics and Activities (8:15 am)
- **Tuesday, September 15:**
Parent Coffee with Dr. Vy Vu (8:15 am)
- **Thursday, October 1:**
Head of School Annual Report (8:15 am)
- **Wednesday, March 3 & Thursday, March 4, 2027:**
HOS Parent Coffees in 4 languages

Upcoming Events

Elementary School

- **Wednesday, August 19:**
ES Workshop for New Elementary Parents: New Year, New Beginnings (8:30 am)
- **Thursday, August 20:**
Curriculum Night (check divisional email for grade-level details)

Middle School

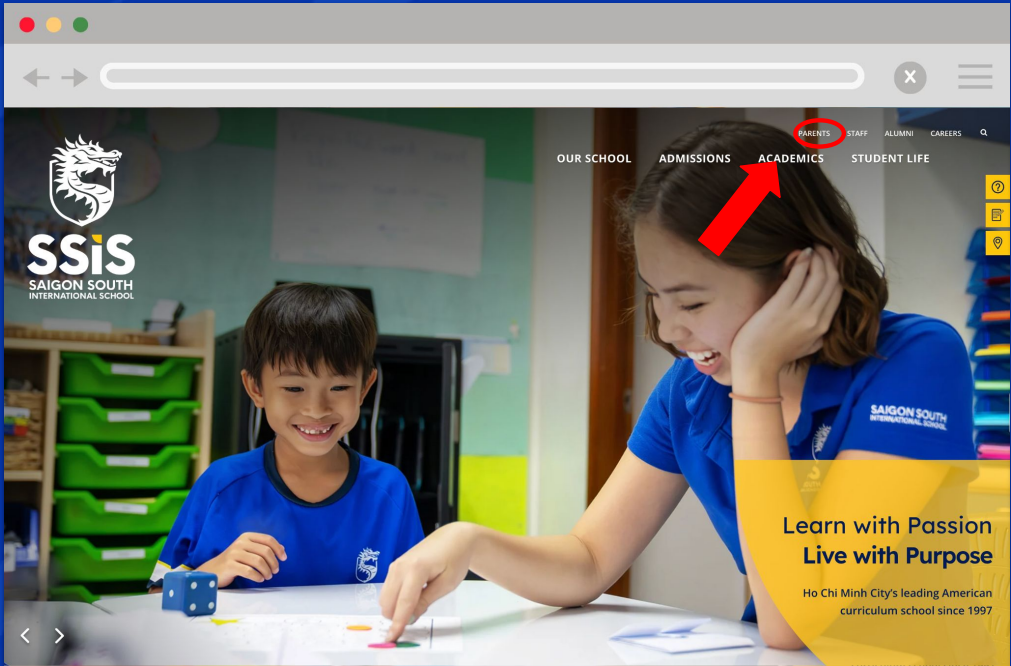
- **Thursday, August 27:**
Middle School Curriculum Night (5:30 pm)
- **Tuesday, October 27:**
Middle School Week Without Walls Information Session (6:00 pm)

Upcoming Events

High School

- **Tuesday, August 18:**
Grade 12 University Night
(6:00 pm)
- **Tuesday, August 25:**
Curriculum Night (5:30 pm)
- **Thursday, September 3:**
Grade 9 Parent Night: Welcome to
High School (6:00 pm)
- **Wednesday, December 16:**
University Kick-Off for Grade 11
Students and Parents (6:00 pm)
- **Thursday, January 14, 2027:** Rising
Grade 9 Course Selection Night
(6:00 pm)

PARENT PORTAL





PARENT PORTAL

PARENTSSTAFFALUMNICAREERS

HomeCalendarsESMSHSAppsAthleticsPTAStudent SupportSchool ServicesContacts

CALENDARS

REPORT AN ABSENCE

APPS

CAFETERIA (ADEN)

Announcements

All SchoolElementary SchoolMiddle SchoolHigh School

Filter by tag

ALLASINFO



Welcome to the New School Year!

Aug 7 2026

As I begin my ninth year in this wonderful school and community, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year. However your family spent the summer (near or far, together or apart, quietly at home or off on adventures), I hope it brought you moments to cherish with the children in your life.

[READ MORE](#)



[AS] Aden: Welcome Back SSIS (SY 2026-2027)

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGES



[Welcome to the New School Year!](#)

SSIS Head of School
Aug 7 2026



SSiS

SAIGON SOUTH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Have a phenomenal year, everyone!

