



ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

Our elementary school is fully authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB-PYP), an internationally celebrated curriculum framework for children from KG1 (Nursery) to Grade 5 specifically designed to facilitate a smooth transition between both international and national school systems.

IB PYP (KG1-GRADE 5)

We believe that children learn most effectively when curriculum is **broad, balanced, holistic and differentiated**, and when learning is student-centered and focuses on the child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the outside world. The PYP is a framework **guided by six transdisciplinary themes of global significance** that collectively form a coherent, school-wide 'Programme of Inquiry': who we are, where we are in place and time, how we express ourselves, how the world works, how we organize ourselves, sharing the planet. Our students explore these six themes using **knowledge and skills derived from six subject domains** (Languages, Mathematics, Social Studies, Arts, Science and Technology, and Personal, Social and Physical Education) as well as via the transdisciplinary skills. Our teachers carefully plan and implement between four (KG1-KG3) and six (Grade 1 to Grade 5) Units of Inquiry each year at each grade level, with additional targeted instruction occurring in the core competencies of numeracy and literacy (reading, writing, speaking, listening, presenting) ensuring that appropriate rigor is maintained.

As a school we are also committed to **accentuating and elevating computation thinking competencies in our students using cutting-edge technologies** to support learning in STEM and IT and across all other subject domains. IST's generous provision of technologies includes personal iPads, class sets of laptops and iMacs, interactive whiteboards, Virtual Reality headsets, robots and coding, and design and media communication tools. IST also boasts an **impressive library** with an extensive collection of books and digital publications, including collections in mother tongue languages. As parents you too are encouraged to take full advantage of library facilities and materials!

For more detailed information on the Elementary School and Elementary programme, please contact the school directly or refer to the Parent Student Handbook available for download on the IST website and in hardcopy from the school office. Additional information about the IB-PYP can be found on the **IB website** at www.ibo.org



Tianjin's only **International Baccalaureate** World School

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TIANJIN

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our **Elementary School** offers a welcoming, inclusive international experience for children **from Nursery to Grade 5** in which engaged parents and highly skilled and committed teachers work together to nurture each child's unique academic and social-emotional learning needs in an environment of quality learning resources and world class facilities.



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ADMISSIONS

Our school places students in developmentally appropriate grade levels based on the child's birthdate on 30 September for KG1 (3 years), KG2 (Pre-K, 4 years), and Kindergarten (KG3, 5 years). Grades 1 to 5 placements are based on previous grade levels completed. Children will be admitted into the half-day program (8:10AM to 12:00PM) from 2 years 9 months, but must demonstrate independence with toileting (assistance is nevertheless provided as needed).

HOMEROOM CLASSES

Students spend the majority of each school day in the care of our homeroom teachers who support high quality learning in the core subjects, including Mathematics, English language and literacy, and Science and Social Studies. Core subjects are further integrated into the transdisciplinary 'Units of Inquiry' as relevant.

CLASS SIZES

KG1 and KG2: 14 students (1 adult to 7 children)
KG3 to Grade 2: 20 students
Grades 3 to 5: 22 students

SCHEDULE

Our school day begins at 8.10AM and finishes at 3.15PM. There are eight 40-minute periods per day, with the exception of Wednesday when lessons are condensed to allow for an early finish at 2.15PM. Students have a 20-minute morning recess from 9:45AM to 10:05AM, and a 60-minute lunch break from 12:10PM to 1:10PM. Students in KG1 and KG2 run a separate schedule of breaks (see Early Learning Center pamphlet).

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Students receive weekly lessons from our dedicated team of specialist teachers in Physical Education (2-3 lessons), Music (2 lessons), Art (1-2 lessons), World Languages (3-4 lessons), STEM/IT (1-2 lessons), and Library/Information Literacy (1-2 lessons)

HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

A child's school experience is greatly enriched by a family that is well informed and active in school affairs. In the Elementary school, our main platform of communication is Seesaw (accessible via website or App). Seesaw provides information on curriculum, classroom activities, homework and special events. As parents you are encouraged to be active participants by posting your own feedback!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (ELA)

While all of our teachers are language teachers and actively support English language development, a team of skilled specialist ELA teachers provide scheduled ELA classes for Grade 1 to 5 students in need of additional assistance, with in-class support offered for KG1 to KG3. New applicants from KG3 to Grade 5 are required to sit an English language proficiency assessment to determine what level of learning support is required to best meet their language learning needs.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Balance in the various aspects of your children's lives is important, and our students are therefore provided with multiple opportunities to engage in different forms of learning beyond the traditional subject disciplines, including through field trips, Co-Curricular Activities (offered every day after school and are registered through the 'School Buddies' app), sports, student leadership, and community service experiences. All field trips and most CCAs are offered at no additional cost to parents.

TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Our dedicated faculty includes highly qualified and experienced Homeroom, Specialist subject, English Language Acquisition (ELA), and Learning Support teachers from around the world. Experienced Teaching Assistants provide additional support across the Elementary program.

FACILITIES

IST boasts Tianjin's largest international school campus with 7.2 hectares of park-like grounds and over 30,000m² of architecturally designed, purpose-built facilities. The Elementary School is primarily based in the Qin Building and houses an engaging Early Learning Center dedicated to meeting the unique developmental needs of pre-school children, and spacious grade level pods with generous homeroom and collaborative learning spaces for KG3 to Grade 5 children. Additional state-of-the-art facilities support high quality learning in specialist subjects, including Physical Education, STEM, Library and Information Literacy, Music, Art and Drama, and Chinese and Modern Languages.

