

# SECONDARY CURRICULUM

Our **Secondary School** offers a dynamic, academically rigorous and holistic curriculum aimed to prepare students to become life-long learners. IST is fully authorized to offer the **International Baccalaureate Middle Years (IB-MYP) and Diploma (IB-DP)** curriculum frameworks and has been successfully implementing these prestigious international programmes for Secondary students since August 2001. IST was recently ranked #6 in China and #69 in the world out of over 3000 IB schools.

 Middle Years Programme

 Diploma Programme

## IB-MYP (GRADES 6-10)

The MYP provides a **rigorous and comprehensive course of study** of the traditional secondary school subject disciplines. Additionally, it explicitly seeks to identify interdisciplinary links that exist between subjects, and to make real-world connections through an exploration of six universal 'Global Contexts:' identities, relationships, orientation in time and space, personal and cultural expression, scientific and technical innovation, globalization and sustainability, fairness and development.

Students study English (offered at 3-4 proficiency levels), Mathematics (offered at 2 levels), Sciences, Design and Technology, Individuals and Societies, additional Languages (Chinese, Korean, French, and German), Arts Subjects (Music, Art, Drama), Physical Education and Health. Grade 10 students also complete an independent long-term MYP 'Personal Project'

## IB DP (GRADES 11-12)

The DP is a 2-year course of study offered to Grade 11-12 students leading to final examinations and a **highly esteemed university matriculation qualification**. Throughout the programme, students study subjects in six groups: Studies in Language and Literature (English, Chinese, French, German, Korean), Language Acquisition (English, Chinese), Individuals and Societies (History, Geography, Economics), Sciences (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Design), Mathematics (Analysis and Approaches, Applications and Interpretation), and The Arts (Music, Visual Art). Students also study three elements of the DP 'Core': Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS). These aim to broaden each student's educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills meaningfully.

Over the past 20 years our Seniors have consistently and easily exceeded IB world averages with respect to general pass rates (96% versus 79%) and average diploma points awarded (36/45 points versus 30/45). Over the past three years our students have averaged a 99% pass rate, with an average score of 37 points, including 5 perfect 45 point diplomas. At IST we are aware that the IB-DP may not be suitable for all students and therefore we also offer the IST Diploma, a fully accredited course of study equivalent to a US High School Diploma.



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

# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TIANJIN

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

Our **Secondary School** offers a welcoming, inclusive international experience for students from **Grade 6 to Grade 12** 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.







## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Balance in the various aspects of 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:

- Single day and week-long 'Week Without Walls' excursions to fascinating locations in Tianjin and elsewhere in China,
- Performing Arts (e.g., choirs, ensembles and orchestra, and musical and dramatic productions)
- Athletics (individual and team participation in a range of sporting activities in both local and regional leagues, including ISCT, ISAC, and ACAMIS)
- A wide range of other Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs, offered every day after school)
- Student Leadership (e.g., Student Council)
- Community and Service (e.g., Action Groups, Literacy Lab, and Media at IST)
- Excursions and most CCAs are provided at no additional cost to parents.

## HOME & SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Our community is mutually supportive and enthusiastically engaged in all aspects of school life. In addition to routine newsletters and information shared with parents via email and the school website and social media platforms, our school also provides students and parents with direct access to general course information, assignments and marks for summative assessments through 'ManageBac', our online curriculum management system. Additionally, teachers use Microsoft 'Teams' to facilitate effective communication, collaboration and learning with students.

## FACILITIES

IST boasts Tianjin's largest international school campus with 7.2 hectares of park-like grounds and over 30,000m<sup>2</sup> of architecturally designed, purpose-built facilities. The Secondary School is housed in the magnificent 'Han' Building for all academic activities other than Design and Technology, Visual Art, and Physical Education. Han facilities include: the Library, Literacy Lab, and Media Center; the 520 seat Han Theater, Black Box, and Music Suites; 4 dedicated Science Laboratories; recreational spaces and lounges, including the Student Center and Deli Marche Café; and numerous general subject classrooms. The Han Building is linked by walkways to the Qin Building, which includes state-of-the-art Design and Technology and Visual Arts Suites; the Gymnasium and Fitness Center; and a Medical Clinic. The school also has extensive grounds, including a high quality 400m running track and several sports fields.

## ADMISSIONS

Our school places students based upon equivalent grade levels completed at their previous school. In addition to the standard IST application forms (which include Form D, a transfer report from the applicant's current school), copies of progress reports for the past two years are also required. New applicants and their parents meet with the Secondary Principal, and normally take an English language proficiency assessment to determine what additional language learning support, if any, is required.

## SCHEDULE

Our classes are organized on a 10-day cycle. The school day begins at 8.10AM with a 20 minute 'Homeroom' class, before formal classes begin at 08:30AM. There are eight 40-minute periods per day, although most Secondary classes are double 80-minute periods. School finishes at 3.15PM, with the exception of Wednesdays when lessons and the lunch break 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 1:10PM to 2:10PM.

## COUNSELING

Our specialist guidance and college counsellors help to promote the overall wellbeing of Secondary students by offering a comprehensive, preventative, and accessible program of guidance in academic, personal/social, and college and career counseling. Our counselors are always available to meet with students and parents whenever advice and support is needed

## TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

Our dedicated faculty of highly qualified and experienced teachers from around the world, provide high quality teaching and learning across an extensive range of academic subject disciplines. Student learning in our English medium school is further supported by a large team of specialist English Language Acquisition (ELA) and Individual Needs teachers. Teaching Assistants also provide targeted learning support across the curriculum.

## ADVISORY & APPROACHES TO LEARNING

Once a week (40 minutes) students attend an extended advisory class with their homeroom teacher with the specific purpose of supporting general academics and social emotional skills and needs. Students in Grades 6-8 also attend weekly 'Approaches to Learning' lessons that help them navigate standard practices of learning and organization throughout their years of study in the MYP. Grade 10 students are also afforded time to complete their Personal Project, the capstone of the MYP.

