



# THE BLAZE

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER



Dear Students and Parents

It is my pleasure to offer a very warm welcome back to school to all students and parents, and an especially warm welcome to all of the new members of our school community. I do hope that new families are starting to feel settled and that you have all felt warmly welcomed and supported throughout the application process and your move to our school. I also extend a warm welcome to the new members of the IST faculty and support staff, all of whom are already making a positive impression on the daily life of our school: Welcome Sam DeJohn (Economics), Valeria Rocha (Secondary Art), Billy Brown (Grade 3), and Monique Barthakur (Early Years). I trust that everyone enjoyed the long summer break and feels well rested and ready for the busy year ahead!



Sam DeJohn



Valeria Rocha



Billy Brown



Monique

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### Annual School Days, Events and Holidays Calendar

As you plan for your next holidays, **please be sure to consult our published annual calendar for the school year to ensure that planned vacations align with the days on which the school is closed for students.** The [calendar](#) is attached for your reference. Please also note the colour scheme which relates to a new 'Community Curriculum' initiative that we are adopting to better encourage and align community-wide engagement with core educational themes, activities, events, and learning and outcomes associated with wellbeing and global citizenship. Our main theme for the first quarter will be 'Connections and Inclusion'.

### Toddle

At IST we use a teaching, learning and communication management platform called Toddle. If you are a new parent, you should have received email notifications and instructions inviting you to join the platform. If you're still having trouble logging in to Toddle, please contact our database manager, Neo Zhang, at [Neo\\_Zhang@istianjin.org.cn](mailto:Neo_Zhang@istianjin.org.cn)

### Up-To-Date Contact Information

It is always important for the school to have your most up-to-date contact information to ensure that you receive important school messages. Please email Ms. Christina Song, the Admissions & Administrative Offices Manager at [christina\\_song@istianjin.org.cn](mailto:christina_song@istianjin.org.cn) by next Friday 22 August if you have recently changed your mobile phone number, and/or home and/or email addresses. Thank you!

### Transport Liaison, Ms. Tracy Feng

Parents of students using IST transportation routes are members of route-specific WeChat groups, coordinated by transport liaison, Ms. Tracy Feng. Please note that Ms. Feng uses her private WeChat





account to support this channel of communication, and therefore it should only be used for transport related matters. We ask that you kindly not WeChat Tracy with questions or concerns unrelated to transport. Instead, please use Toddle, the main switchboard (2859-2001), teacher or relevant support staff emails (firstname\_familyname@istianjin.org.cn), or the generic school email (info@istianjin.org.cn). Thank you.

### After School Play and Parental Supervision

As you are aware, our school likes to make our facilities and campus grounds available to community members, including after school and during weekends. We must, nevertheless, have certain supervision expectations to ensure student safety and ask that parents please adhere to these guidelines:

- **Children are allowed to play at school until 5:10PM** (in the rear, outside playgrounds and sports fields only), so long as they are directly supervised by one of their parents (but not their aiyis). PLEASE NOTE: From yesterday we started playing music ("Fishing Boats Singing at Dusk" — time to come home!) on loud speakers at the rear of the school at 5:10PM to let parents and students know that they must exit the campus within 5 minutes.
- **Children may not play outside if unsupervised (and this is especially true in our playgrounds!)**
- **Students and parents are asked to exit the school buildings by 3:30PM (2:30PM on Wednesdays)**
- Families can, remain in the PFO Community Lounge or Library until 4:30PM; however, children are not permitted to play inside the building and are required to be supervised and engaged in quiet activities, such as reading or homework. If children wish to play, they need to be taken outside to do so.
- Please also note that Mr. Conway emailed secondary parents yesterday about new PassTab registration protocols for secondary students wanting to remain at school after school hours.

### Health and Safety: Fire Drill

As part of our community safeguarding efforts, we carry out routine evacuation drills. Yesterday morning we practiced a fire drill, and I am delighted to report that the conduct of students and adults alike was exemplary. The entire school was evacuated and registered in less than five minutes (always our goal). I am regularly involved in the evaluation of other schools, and one of the many areas that I know we excel in, is the quality of our evacuation protocols and behavior; yesterday's drill really was something to be proud of!

### IST Publications

All new families should have by now received a welcome packet containing a hard copy of the Parent-Student Handbook, and all families should have received a hard copy of the annual Calendar. The school's most up-to-date events calendar and handbooks are also posted on the school website as PDFs for your convenience. Returning parents can also be issued hard copies of the Parent-Student Handbook upon request. Please contact the school office if you did not receive your copies.

### Facility Updates

I am pleased to report that a number of significant facility renovations were completed over the summer, including upgrades to all Qin Building flooring (aligning it with the Han Building) and the complete renovation of the Qin Gymnasium (bringing it into closer alignment with the plans for the new gymnasium). Unfortunately, work is a little behind schedule with the new gymnasium, primarily due to a series of major events taking place in Tianjin and restrictions on construction activity. Nevertheless, the new building is progressing well, and we hope to be able to start using it in January.





## Outstanding IB Diploma Examination Results

One of the most objective means by which parents can judge the ongoing quality of a school's educational programmes is through its university matriculation examination results. I am proud to report that our Graduating Class of 2025 have upheld IST's long tradition of academic excellence, as evidenced by their outstanding IB Diploma Results!

- Average score of 35 points (vs World average of 30.7)
- 78% of students  $\geq$  World average
- 30% of students  $\geq$  gold standard threshold of 40 points (vs World average of 9%)
- Congratulations to the entire Class of 2025 on their outstanding examination success!

As important as academic results may be, they mean little if the character development of the students is not similarly valued and supported, and at IST we therefore maintain a deep commitment to ensuring that our students develop and uphold the best intent of our philosophy and learner profile dispositions. **One of the ways that parents can support the school in this commitment is to actively support our yearly community-wide goal.** This year IST teachers, staff and students (and hopefully you too!) will pay special attention to the IST learner dispositions of being **'open-minded'**.

**Community-wide Goal:** *At IST we share a collective commitment to cultivate a vibrant community that embodies the spirit of **open-mindedness** as defined by the International Baccalaureate (IB). Within the unique context of our school and host city of Tianjin, our commitment is to further nurture and enhance an inclusive environment where we all critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We will seek and evaluate a range of points of view, listening with a genuine desire to understand, and with a willingness to grow from the experience.*

I am pleased to share the news that AmCham is sponsoring a new event (**AmCham Youth Tech Pioneers**) next Friday, and IST has been asked to host the afternoon events in recognition of our reputation as a regional leader in the use of cutting-edge tech in education. 50 select senior high school students from schools across Tianjin will spend the afternoon at IST learning about AI, XR and other cutting edge tech, and how our school strategically and ethically leverages such technologies to elevate teaching and learning.

**The new school year is an exciting time for us all, but it can also be a rather stressful one for children and their families** – and especially so for those who are new to our school and to Tianjin. We understand these stresses and encourage all families to maintain close contact with the school to ensure that the needs of your family are understood and so that your transition is as smooth and positive as possible.

Again, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the new school year. Please remember that our doors are always open.

With warm regards

Steve Moody  
Director





International School of Tianjin 2025-26 Community Curriculum Calendar

Calendar grid showing months from July '25 to June '26 with dates, events, and connection banners (Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue).



## IST Library & Information Literacy Center

### Our Mission

The IST Library is a friendly place where our community is inspired and challenged to think critically, read widely, act ethically, value creativity, and defend the right to access information.

### Summer Checkout

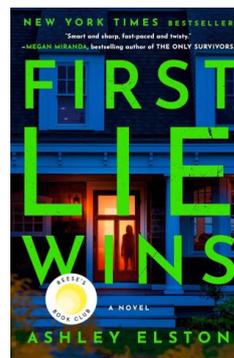
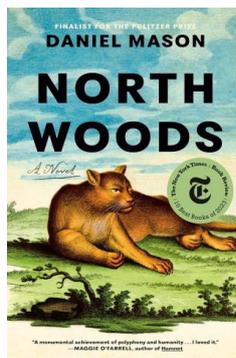
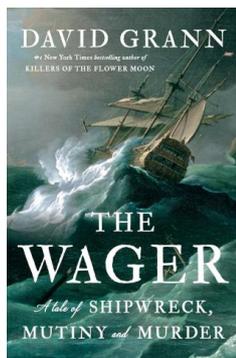
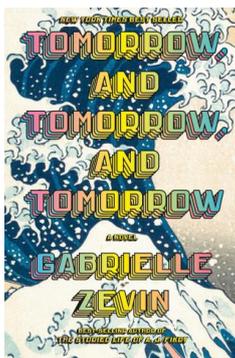
If your family will be staying in China for all or part of the summer holiday, we encourage you to take advantage of our summer book checkout. From **June 2-5**, students may borrow up to 20 library books with a signed permission slip (required only for elementary students). Permission slips went home last week and are also available on Toddle and at the library circulation desk.

Before summer break, all students must clear any outstanding items on their library accounts.

Return this form by	Summer Checkout	Please send an extra bag to carry books
Monday, June 2	June 2-5	

### Summer Reading for Adults

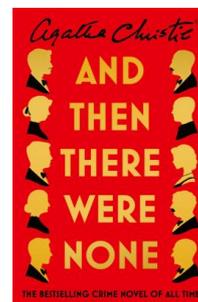
Parents are invited to join in our summer checkout! You're welcome to borrow up to 20 titles from our adult collection—fiction and nonfiction alike. Below are just a few of the highlights available for summer reading.



### Parent Book Club: August

Our next book selection is the novel *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. We will meet in the library to discuss this book in August when we return to school. The library has copies of the book in English, Chinese, Korean, and French. A digital copy in English or Chinese is also available upon request.

Please consider joining us in August for coffee, treats, and a lively discussion—even if you don't have a chance to read the book! Please contact one of our library staff to join our WeChat group.



Library hours: Monday to Thursday 7:30 to 4:30 | Friday 7:30 to 3:30



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Weekly Menu (N-G2) 11-15 Aug

Table with 5 columns (Monday-Friday) and 4 rows (Dessert, Main Dish, Fruit of the Day, Nutritional Summary) for the weekly menu (N-G2) 11-15 Aug.

Weekly Menu (N-G2) 18-22 Aug

Table with 5 columns (Monday-Friday) and 4 rows (Dessert, Main Dish, Fruit of the Day, Nutritional Summary) for the weekly menu (N-G2) 18-22 Aug.

Weekly Menu (G3-G12) 11-15 Aug

Table with 5 columns (Monday-Friday) and 10 rows (Dessert, Main Dish, Fruit of the Day, Nutritional Summary) for the weekly menu (G3-G12) 11-15 Aug.



## DIARY DATES

Monday - August 25, 2025  
Secondary Student Photo Shoot Day

Tuesday - August 26, 2025  
Elementary Student Photo Shoot Day  
Secondary Open House

Thursday - August 28, 2025  
Elementary Open House

Monday - September 1, 2025  
Long Weekend

Tuesday~Wednesday - September 2~3, 2025  
Staff Workday

Friday - September 5, 2025  
IST Birthday (31 years old!)

Monday~Friday - September 8~12, 2025  
Week Without Walls (G6-12)

Saturday - September 20, 2025  
PFO Picnic

## SPORTS DATES

18 August –  
Sports Season 1 Starts  
HSVB Practice 1

19 August –  
MSFB Practice 1

20 August –  
MS Badminton Practice 1

21 August –  
MSFB Practice 2  
MS Badminton Practice 2

22 August –  
HSVB Practice 2

## WELCOME TO THE IST SPORTS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CCA) PROGRAM FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Please take note of the following dates:

### Season 1 Sport Schedule

- ☺ Starts Thursday, 4 September and ends Friday, 14 November
- ☺ The program will run for approximately 10 school weeks
- ☺ No CCAs during holidays and PTSCs (conferences)

Please do not hesitate to contact our department with any questions.

- ☺ Mr. Silvis – Athletics & Activities Director  
(ben\_silvis@istianjin.org.cn)
- ☺ Ms. Guo Ying – Activities Officer (CCA's) (ying\_guo@istianjin.org.cn)
- ☺ Ms. Durian Wang – Activities Officer (Sports) (durian\_wang@istianjin.org.cn)
- ☺ Activity Office: telephone 022-28592003 / extension 8150.