



**INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL of TIANJIN**

Working Learning Acting TOGETHER

29 July 2026

Dear New IST Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our community and to the 2026-27 school year here at the International School of Tianjin. The start of a new school year is an exciting time, but it can also be a time of uncertainty and anxiety, especially for families new to our school and to life here in Tianjin. For this reason, we are eager to do our very best to ensure that you and your children settle quickly and that you soon feel at home here with us.

One of the most important things that we can do as a school and community to support you as you settle in and become familiar with our school, is ensure that you feel well informed about all facets of school life. To this end the school will provide each new family with a hard copy of the [Parent Student Handbook](#) (also available in PDF format by clicking on this IST web-link).

This annual publication contains detailed information about school practices, policies and regulations that will greatly support you as you familiarize yourself with school life here at IST. Please note that other publications, including the [Early Learning Centre Handbook](#) are also available for download.

In addition, IST posts regular announcements on our website homepage and each Friday we send home the school's weekly e-newsletter '*The Blaze*' via email and the school's curriculum management system '**Toddle**'. The Blaze and other news items are also posted on **IST's official WeChat account**. To subscribe, please scan the QR code.



Elementary teachers also maintain student based digital portfolios and parent communications using 'Toddle'. Toddle will become active during the first week of school with teachers contacting you directly. Secondary parents and students can also access up-to-date information about courses of study and grades using 'Toddle'. Login details will be provided during the first few days of school.

The remainder of this document addresses information that is relevant for the '**New Student Orientation Day**' on Tuesday 4 August. Please also take a little time to read the second posting on our website '**The First Day of School**', which includes a selection of the most immediately relevant information for parents and students at the commencement of the new school year. Please note that electronic copies of both of these documents will be emailed to all parents who have provided email details.

I very much look forward to meeting and getting to know you all. Thank you for choosing IST and for entrusting your children's education to our school, and please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of our staff at any time should you require further information or assistance. And remember - our doors are always open!

Warm regards, and welcome!

Steve Moody
Director

NOTE: Please continue reading to review the detailed notes about 'New Student Orientation' that follow!

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NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Tuesday 4 August 2026

- All newly registered students and parents are invited to attend a one-hour orientation session on Tuesday 4 August.
- **Families will be contacted individually by the school office to confirm their assigned time.**
- Parents will also be offered an opportunity to use the school bus service (to and from designated locations), should this be desired.
- Families are asked to register upon arrival outside the Han Building at which time they will be provided with a welcome package and will be personally escorted to meet their child's homeroom teacher.
- Homeroom teachers will explain a little about what to expect on the first day and first week of school, as well as other general administrative processes. They will also take you on a tour of the campus and show you where to report with other students on Wednesday morning (in the school gymnasium).
- Students do not need to bring a bag or any other materials to the New Student Orientation. Teachers will advise parents and students what will be required on the first day of school.
- **Service Counters** will be set in the main foyer of the Han Building so that parents can
 - purchase PE uniforms
 - register for the school bus service
 - register private drivers
 - take parent and driver ID photographs
 - register Amashine cafeteria cards
 - join the parent 'IST Emergency Notifications' WeChat group

Given the various tasks to complete, parents may like to consider arriving at school a little earlier than their assigned one-hour time slot (or stay on a little later) to deal with these matters. Parents are also welcome to complete these processes during their assigned one hour of orientation, especially secondary parents whose teenage children may prefer not to be accompanied!

- Please note that these service counters will be set up again for the first day of school on Wednesday morning for your convenience, but parents can also take care of these matters at a later date by inquiring at the main administrative office in the Han building.
- Student Interviews and English Language Proficiency Assessments: Please note that it is normal for students to meet with the relevant principal prior to the first day of school, and if necessary, undertake

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English language proficiency assessments, although the holidays and the late arrival of some families sometimes means that this is not possible. A member of the administrative support team will contact your family directly if they would like to try to schedule a meeting and/or assessment prior to New Student Orientation.

And please remember that our doors are always open to support you and your family as you settle into our new school community - Welcome to IST!

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