

#### Middle School Welcome for New Families

Presented by Anne Sweet, Middle School Principal and Ruth Poulsen, Middle School Assistant Principal



#### **EMPOWERED WITH PURPOSE AND COMPASSION**





We are an inspiring international community in Beijing, where thinkers and leaders find their place in the world and serve others. So that our learning is at its best, we build strong relationships and set high expectations together. We are committed to challenging and joyful learning with the freedom to explore.

### **Middle School Administration**



Anne Sweet Middle School Principal



**Ruth Poulsen** Middle School Assistant Principal

# **Challenging and joyful learning**

- Balancing skills and concepts
- Teaching the whole child: academics and social-emotional learning



### Middle School Academics

- Humanities (English and Social Studies)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- World Languages (Chinese, French, Spanish)
- Electives
- Enrichments
- Mentoring
- Flex Time



# Humanities

Readers	<ul><li>Literate across genres</li><li>Analytical and independent thinking</li></ul>		
Writers	<ul><li>Influential, structured arguments</li><li>Creative storytelling</li></ul>		
Collaborators	<ul><li>Negotiating positions</li><li>Integrating ideas</li></ul>		
Researchers	<ul><li>Savvy consumers of information</li><li>Verify sources</li></ul>		
Historians	<ul><li>Events analysis</li><li>Using the past to shape the future</li></ul>		





# Math

# The Mathematics program values:

- Modeling
- Problem solving
- Real-life application
- Communication and reasoning

#### Desmos

Additional curriculum resource under review

### Science

#### As a Science program, we value:

- allowing students to think, work and communicate like a scientist
  - Constructing explanations
  - Modeling
  - Processing Data
  - Designing investigations
- making science accessible for all learners
- in-depth understanding of conceptual ideas vs. broad content coverage



# **World Languages**

#### **Beginning Foreign Language**

- Chinese
- French
- Spanish

#### Advanced Chinese Language

- Advanced Chinese (AC)
- Chinese Language and Literature (CLL)

# English as an Additional Language (EAL) at ISB

ISB serves a diverse population of students.

- EAL support provides students the skills to learn the grade-level content in English.
- EAL classes and in-class support are used



# Learning Support

**Direct Support to Students** 

- Through specialized interventions using evidence-based practices
- For students with diagnosed learning differences and Individualized Learning Plans
- LS classes and in-class support are used





### **Sample Student Schedule** 2 days X 4 = 8-day schedule



### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives

#### Make Electives

Product Design (1 credit) Circuits, E-textiles, and Code, Oh My! (1 credit) Visual Art Studio (1 credit) Yearbook Photography and Design (1 credit Make + 1 credit Enrichment) Music Studio (1 credit)

#### **Perform Electives**

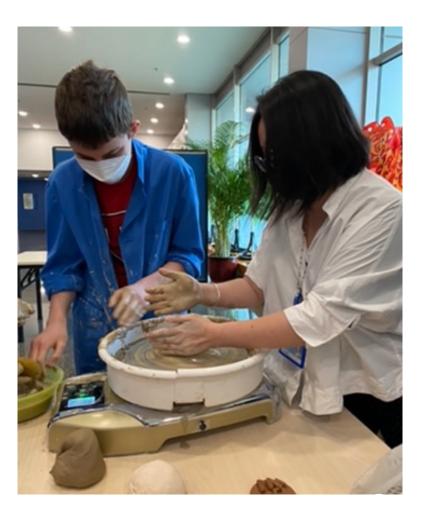
Beginning an Instrument (2 credits) MS Progress Band (2 credits) MS Concert Band (2 credits) MS Progress Orchestra (2 credits) MS Concert Orchestra (2 credits) MS Choir (1 or 2 credits) MS Drama (1 or 2 credits)



# **Enrichment Elective Examples**

- Cricket
- Photography
- Design
- Ceramics
- Woodworking
- Yoga
- Creative Writing
- Build your Own Board Games
- Electronic Music
- Baking
- Fashion and Textiles

- •Chinese Embroidery
- •Architecture
- •Street Art
- Documentaries
- •Exploring Civilizations
- •Food Lab
- •Forensic Science
- •Gardening
- •Math Design
- •Movement and Cardio
- •Book Club
- •Tinkercad •Website Design



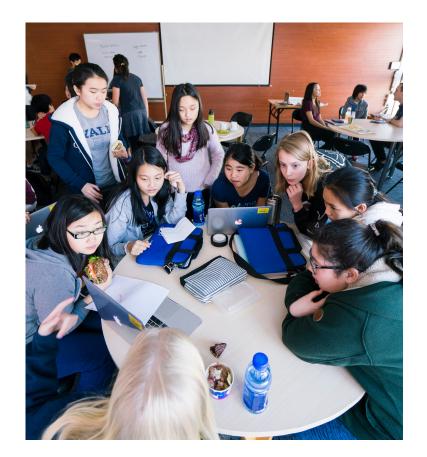
# **Dragons' Exchange (DX)**



- Our online Learning Management
  System
- Primarily a tool to aid student-teacher communication
- Parents will have a limited view of contents. The most useful aspect is the calendar with due dates for major assignments and testing dates.

### **Student Laptops**

- Dragons Exchange for homework, assignments, due dates
- Microsoft 365 suite
- Balance of time spent on and off devices



# **Academic Reports and Progress**

Subject	Beginning the Standard	<u>Approaching</u> the Standard	<u>Meeting</u> the Standard	<u>Mastering</u> the Standard
<b>Proficiency</b> <u>Meeting</u> the Standard is the target level, representing expected proficiency for subject strands at this grade level.	Student demonstrates initial understanding of skills and concepts within the standard.	Student demonstrates partial understanding of skills and concepts within the standard.	Student demonstrates full understanding and application of skills and concepts within the standard.	Student demonstrates exemplary understanding of skills and concepts within the standard. When appropriate, the student applies these in unfamiliar or new situations and circumstances.

- Grades: Standards-based grading
- Report Cards: 4 times yearly
- Parent-teacher conferences: 2 times yearly
- Sharing your child's learning: DX, contacting teachers

# Student as a Learner

Responsibility Attitude Collaboration **Needs Improvement** – The student is not meeting the standard of behavior for the class. Please refer to the teacher comments for more information. **Satisfactory** – The student is meeting the general expectations for behavior in this class.

**Exemplary** – The student is meeting the general expectations for behavior in this class consistently and is a leader in the classroom. The student's habits facilitate the student's learning processes in a commendable way.

### **Academic Reports and Progress**

*Students are assessed using academic standards and also according to their approach & attitudes toward learning.* 

# **Social and Emotional Learning**

### "Every Student, Every Teacher, Every Day"



#### Mentoring:

- Twice per week
- 40 minutes each time
- Small groups
- Every child is known



### Increases student well-being

Enhances positive behavior

Reduces crises

Enhances academic achievement

### Counselors

### Grade 6: **Kara Haines** Grade 7: **Shasha Huang** Grade 8: **Lyndsey Cox**



#### When to reach out to your counselor?

- Concerns about child's wellbeing, schedule, or friendships
- Questions about class placements
- For parenting support
  - STEPS Parenting Class
  - Counselor Coffees with parents
  - Individual meetings
- Referrals for more serious mental health needs

# **Experiential Learning**

### **Fall Mentoring Trips** 2 days, 1 night

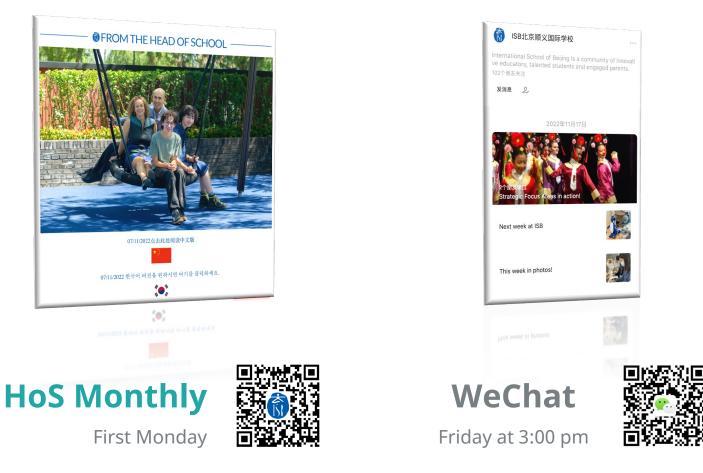




**Spring Experiences** 3 days, 2 nights

### **Communications**@ **ISB** *announcements, news and updates*





# **Student Activities at ISB**



Dragons' Gate



# **Middle School Clubs**

- World Scholar's Cup
- Model United Nations
- MathCounts
- Problem Solving Club
- MS Book Club
- Habitat for Humanity



### Middle School Office



#### **Betty Wang**

Middle School Administrative Assistant



#### Hai Ning Deng

Middle School Administrative Assistant



Ivy Yang

Middle School Administrative Assistant

### **Key MS Contacts**



**To report your child's absence:** Contact Betty Wang in the MS Office <u>bwang2@isb.bj.edu.cn</u> Tel: 8149 2345 ext. 1084

- Please read the MS Handbook on Dragons Gate for all policies and procedures.
- You may contact your child's teachers anytime.
- For general inquiries, your child's homeroom or mentoring teacher is a great place to start.

