

**SHANGHAI AMERICAN SCHOOL**

***SAS FORWARD:***  
**STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS**

May 2021



## **Pillar 1: Innovative and Individualized Academics**

**VISION** – SAS believes a vibrant academic program models innovation, nurtures students' individual growth, and allows them to create personal pathways to success in school, in college, and in life.

**COMMITMENT** – SAS commits to engaging every student in innovative approaches to learning so they may thrive in a modern world.

**TARGETS** – In the next three to five years, SAS will:

- Develop programs PreK-12 that leverage innovation in service of interdisciplinary and collaborative learning and support students in their individual pathways to success.
- Provide students with greater flexibility and choice in designing individual learning pathways. This could include aligning Middle School and High School schedules on each campus, mixing ages in certain classes according to proficiency, providing credits for recognized and valid outside learning, revising graduation requirements, partnering with universities to give opportunities for dual enrollment courses in high school, etc.
- Transform assessment at SAS to reflect innovative practices that enhance student learning and align with higher education expectations both for admission and success.
- Enhance the school's capacity to support all learners in developing their language proficiency and language identity, including continuing to strengthen the school's EAL program and piloting a Mandarin Chinese bilingual program.
- Invest in internal Research and Development, including relevant professional learning for faculty and staff, to foster a culture of innovation focused on student learning.



## **Pillar 2: Inspiring and Creative Learning Environment**

**VISION** – SAS believes that exceptional learning happens when innovative educators inspire future leaders in world-class, technologically advanced learning spaces, on campus and online.

**COMMITMENT** – SAS commits to creating sustainable, technologically advanced facilities and digital infrastructure as well as the professional environment to support them.

**TARGETS** – In the next three to five years, SAS will:

- Transform learning spaces across all divisions and programs into inspiring, collaborative and shared learning environments.
- Systematically redefine and extend the student learning experience both within and beyond the classroom through the implementation of innovative digital platforms as well as state-of-the-art technologies and tools.
- Systematically support and develop the capacity of our faculty to employ innovative strategies that leverage our learning environments and tools to engage and challenge all students.



### **Pillar 3: Personal Growth and Exploration**

**VISION** – SAS believes in an expansive, whole-child educational experience that extends beyond the classroom to inspire our students to live their dreams.

**COMMITMENT** – SAS commits to further developing a portfolio of distinctive programs and experiences that draw upon unique opportunities in China and inspire our students' passion for personal growth and exploration in athletics, the arts, entrepreneurial endeavors, and other arenas.

**TARGETS** – In the next three to five years, SAS will:

- Expand off-campus experiences using the *Menwai* framework: expanding intercultural understanding, working through challenges, personal growth, and awareness of impact.
- Partner with local vendors, businesses, and institutions to expand the scope of our co-curricular activities, including athletics, the arts, and academic support.
- Create programs that support entrepreneurial endeavors and provide students insight into and experience with leading global institutions and companies.



## **Pillar 4: Ethical Global Citizenship**

**VISION** – SAS believes all members of the SAS Community are global citizens capable of changing the world for the better.

**COMMITMENT** – SAS commits to curricular enhancement, program development, and community engagement to support ethical global citizenship that inspires individual action and supports our collective impact.

**TARGETS** – In the next three to five years, SAS will:

- Ensure each student develops a global perspective, intercultural competencies, and a commitment to social justice through an aligned PK-12 approach.
- Establish our standing as a leading service-learning PK-12 international educational organization.
- Integrate principles and practices of sustainability within all areas of our educational program and within all aspects of school operations.



## **PILLAR 5: Vibrant Community**

**VISION** – SAS believes in a vibrant school community united in mission and aspiration.

**COMMITMENT** – SAS commits to cultivating a culture of trust, pride, and belonging for all its stakeholders.

**TARGETS** – Over the next 3-5 years SAS will:

- Increase opportunities for collaboration between school leadership and SAS stakeholders – parents, faculty and staff, students, and alumni – in the effort to ensure a positive and dynamic community culture.
- Further develop and refine the social and emotional education of our students to ensure a healthy and thriving student culture.
- Connect all stakeholders in our community through education and events that ensure Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) are active priorities in our identity as a school.

