OUR MISSION

Shanghai American School inspires in all students:
A lifelong passion for learning
A commitment to act with integrity and compassion
The courage to live their dreams

ABOUT SAS PUDONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
263

AVERAGE FACULTY TENURE
5.4 YEARS

NUMBER OF PASSPORTS IN DIVISION
22

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO IN DIVISION
7.1:1

BEST 3 THINGS ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. Each grade level combines well-rounded interdisciplinary academics with service learning.
2. We offer a curriculum that supports all learners by creating accessibility as well as challenge.
3. Our approach celebrates the individual, giving students greater voice and choice.

My favorite thing about SAS is the faculty – truly world-class all around. I’ve also been impressed by the attention to the students’ personal development and social skills coaching.

—— Gena, SAS Parent

At PDMS, students engage in challenging inquiry-based learning experiences, enriching and strong extracurricular athletics and activities programs, and robust Exploratory and HomeBase programs.

Our programs are aligned with SAS’ Mission and Core Values and are designed to meet the needs of our diverse community of learners. We offer an American curriculum with an international perspective, that is grounded in a standards-based approach and in SAS’ Transdisciplinary Transfer Goals. We foster intellectual curiosity and a sense of responsibility through an academically challenging environment.

We embrace our host country by creating learning experiences in our classrooms that allow students to learn about the country they live in. We also design learning experiences outside our classrooms around our SAS Mén-wài (门外) Pillars of Expanding Intercultural Understanding, Working through Challenges, engaging in Personal Growth and having an Awareness of Impact.

Our HomeBase Program helps students learn about themselves, fosters empathy and appreciation for others, and promotes inclusion and belonging. We cultivate lifelong learners and balanced, service-oriented individuals who are prepared to positively contribute to our global world.

—— Charmagne Braden

Charmagne Braden
A Shanghai American School education equips students to transfer their knowledge and skills beyond the classroom, in authentic settings, over a lifetime.

**SKILLFUL COMMUNICATORS**

SAS learners are skillful communicators who advocate for self and others in more than one language by listening, responding, and articulating ideas through multiple media.

At SAS, we have an enviable artists-in-residence program. But there’s one Signature Program, designed by and for SAS, where the artists in residence are our own students. A.i.R Jingdezhen enables middle school students from the Pudong campus to visit Jingdezhen in China’s Jiangxi Province and develop the artistic and communication skills necessary to be a successful artist. Jingdezhen is known as the Porcelain Capital, and here, students spend an experiential week talking with local artists, understanding market needs, planning their projects, documenting their journey, and perhaps most challenging, developing an approach to successfully selling the original art they’ve created.

**CRITICAL THINKERS**

SAS learners are critical thinkers who develop ideas and construct arguments by questioning, evaluating, synthesizing, and considering perspective.

To accelerate our students’ development as critical learners, grade 7 students participate in the Recycling Regatta during which they are faced with a seemingly impossible task: Form a team and build a boat made out of cardboard and other recycled materials. Oh, and then prove it floats. This highly restrictive assignment forces our students to develop unique ideas and see them through rounds of feedback and iterations until the big day when our eight-lane aquatic center fills with boats – some of which inevitably may fill with water. While results vary on the water, among the students themselves, the project provides a consistent, tremendous growth opportunity.
**EFFECTIVE COLLABORATORS**

SAS learners are effective collaborators who help teams innovate outcomes to achieve a goal by holding themselves and others accountable, contributing in productive ways, and sustaining respectful interactions.

How do you try and address the toughest real-world issues the world faces? You don’t do it alone! In grade 8, students are engaged in Capstone Issues, an integrative project where they team with others to identify challenges ranging from health to the environment, diversity to energy - choosing issues they believe are most relevant to our world. Student then explore the driving forces that created the challenge, and articulate the concerns in a way that helps communicate the urgency of the issues. They then work together to formulate a response and potential solution that can address their specific issue.

**CREATIVE LEARNERS**

SAS learners are creative learners who engage their imaginations to generate novel ideas, demonstrate flexible thinking, evaluate approaches, and take action.

A visitor to the school’s Eagle Shop, may come across what look like reusable shopping bags for sale. In fact, they’re not just bags – they’re also math lessons! See, at SAS, banners often are created to promote events on campus. And after the events? Grade 6 students take outdated banners and apply their math skills in a most creative way to maximize the use of those banners as they’re transformed into recyclable bags. It’s called the Upcycle Project, and it enables students to work with a local not-for-profit to create “Banner Bags” that – yes – can be used for shopping over and over again.

**ETHICAL GLOBAL CITIZENS**

SAS learners are ethical global citizens who take action based on informed decisions filtered through empathy, integrity, sustainability, and social justice.

Encouraging students to take action as ethical global citizens can happen through singular events, but we also know it happens through the daily choices we make as we engage with the world around us. In Pudong Middle School we create all kinds of opportunities through our curriculum and programs to help students take action based on informed decisions filtered through empathy, integrity, sustainability, and social justice. Whether through our Roots and Shoots program, our Kindness Matters Exploratory, engaging in Ménwài experiences, or by sorting their food trays at the end of lunch, PDMS students are challenged to make daily choices about how they wish to engage with the world around them.
There is no average day at Shanghai American School. But here are a few moments your child is likely to experience on a regular basis when they attend middle school at the Pudong campus of SAS.

**7:45am**
In middle school on the Pudong campus, the SAS experience begins even before the class bell rings. Students who arrive early to school have the opportunity to visit one of the themed rooms before the day begins—whether it be to read, finish homework, or hone their tech skills.

**7:55am**
The official school day begins with an opportunity for students to reconnect with each other, to check in with counselors and teachers, and to plan their day thoughtfully. It’s called HomeBase, and the time it takes each morning creates a positive base from which to have a productive day.

**9:16am**
Walk through the Skybridge that connects the two wings of the middle school, and you’ll see a space that feels just like students created it. That’s because they did. Born out of the Student Voices Forum, the Skybridge is a place for students to connect, explore, and simply be themselves.

**1:38pm**
The period after lunch is known as “flex time.” This time is divided between a focus on social/emotional growth, and exploratories. Exporatories are mini-courses that enable students to explore self-chosen subjects or interests that are complementary or perhaps outside their coursework.

**12:38pm**
Lunch has two sections. There’s the nourishment part, which comprises the first half of the lunch period. And there’s the reconnection part, which gives students free time to connect. Because of the division’s no tech policy at this time, the connection is with each other, not their devices!

**10:38am**
Some middle school students are morning people, some are afternoon people. Some love math, others love the arts. With our rotating schedule, classes are taken at different blocks in the day, assuring each student the opportunity to function in each subject at their highest level.

**4:30pm**
The SAS fleet of electric buses load up with tired, fulfilled students ready to be whisked home. Some students will spend their time talking with friends. Others will do homework or listen to music. Still others will read books. The activities are as diverse as the students themselves.

**3:15pm**
The curricular schedule finishes at 3pm, and for the vast majority of SAS students, the co-curricular activities take over. Students can compete athletically in CISSA, a non-competitive athletic conference, participate in Model United Nations or robotics, or receive homework help from their teachers.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**
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