OR 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

We are delighted you are interested in our Early Childhood and Elementary School. Spanning Pre-K through grade 5, the elementary years represent rich developmental stages in a child’s life and are marked by phenomenal brain development and unbridled enthusiasm for discovery and learning new skills. Our team of talented educators work to build warm and supportive relationships with students and employ curricular and evidence-based pedagogical approaches that facilitate the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development of our students. These three areas comprise what we refer to as the whole child, and the whole child approach is what we do best at SAS.

Supported by world class facilities, resources and educators, SAS elementary students cannot help but blossom and grow. Parents find multiple opportunities to participate and build understanding of the educational process that nurtures the whole child at various stages. We look forward to welcoming you into our wonderfully vibrant community of learners here at Shanghai American School!!

Enthusiastically yours,

Julie Hunt

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ABOUT SAS PUDONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

657

AVERAGE FACULTY TENURE

5.2 YEARS

NUMBER OF PASSPORTS IN DIVISION

28

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO IN DIVISION

8:4:1

BEST 3 THINGS ABOUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1. Our academic approach is designed to meet the needs of all learners.
2. We focus on authentic problem-solving that builds long-term skills.
3. Our community-minded philosophy helps instill SAS Mission values such as acting with integrity and compassion.

Our teachers inspire in our children the same spirit of adventure and love of learning that has brought them to us from around the world!

——Sandi, SAS Parent
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 frequently bring in visiting authors. But as it turns out, we have authors in our midst every day! Because throughout elementary school, writing books is a continuous experience for students. Even before children are writing conventionally, they make simple books to communicate ideas and stories. In lower grades, students write personal stories, how-to books, and books of personal expertise. As they progress, they write informational books about learnings from social studies and science. By grade 5, they’re writing realistic fiction and even fantasy books. All books are celebrated in class – and some even make it to our library for all to enjoy!

**CRITICAL THINKERS**

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

Every parent is familiar with this after school conversation with their child: “How was school today?” you’ll ask. “Good…” says the child, and nothing more is offered. That’s one of the reasons we find Seesaw so valuable. Seesaw is a platform we use in early grades that helps make student learning visible by capturing and sharing what students do during the day. Students love posting videos and pictures of school work, and recording audio reflections about their learning. Teachers love the interaction it sparks between students and parents. And parents love getting authentic peeks into what happens in school.
**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.

In elementary school, SAS students don’t just learn to collaborate with their classmates and table groups. They also collaborate with students in middle school and high school. For example, a high school IB Biology unit requires students to partner with grade 4 students. Using a real-world situation of an upcoming track meet, the IB students in grade 11 are learning about mechanisms and controls for ventilation, while their partners in grade 4 are discovering real-life application of graphing and interpreting data while analyzing the breathing rates of student athletes. Cross-divisional collaboration is just one way our students are challenged in unique and impactful ways.

**Creative Learners**

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

Nothing demonstrates creative learning more than the story of our kindergarteners opening their own real restaurant. The KTK Restaurant was months in the making, and grew out of time and autonomy being given to the students for development. Here, teachers played facilitators, artfully weaving in subject matter like math and literacy, and students developed collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving. While each student focused on mastering their roles and responsibilities, they were learning that each role was equally important, and that they were all part of a bigger whole. KTK Restaurant opened for lunch hours on three different days to our community.

**Ethical Global Citizens**

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

Don’t let the name of this learning goal fool you – developing skills as ethical global citizens can sometimes mean creating service learning right at home. Take the annual First Grade Postal Service, for example. Each year before the holidays, our grade 1 students take it upon themselves to open their own “postal service office” to deliver mail throughout the campus. The students place mailboxes outside the administration office, collect mail daily, sort, and distribute. It provides a rich opportunity for our students to gain life skills such as organizing, counting, reading, and problem-solving – all while providing a valuable community service.
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 elementary school at the Puxi campus of SAS.

7:55am
By 7:55, students are settled into their classes and preparing for the day. Of course, some students will say the day REALLY starts at 8:10 when their fellow students take turns delivering morning announcements, weather reports, and riddles over the school’s sound system.

9:28am
Grade 4 students gather in the iHub, an age-appropriate maker space, as they prepare to celebrate innovation at the annual Mini-Maker Faire. Here, they prepare to show the community their inventions that are designed to demonstrate an understanding of circuitry and improve the community.

10:17am
SAS’ unmatched facilities includes the elementary school’s Eagle Park, with water features, trampolines, greenery, and a garden area among a plethora of other attractions. And the division is guided by the student-centric Reggio Emilia philosophy of experiential learning.

1:58pm
Thanks to the largest collection of English language books on mainland China, reading plays a prominent role at SAS. You can see that now, as grade 3 select books for themselves at the library, while grade 5 students visit the classroom library to find books that are just perfect for them.

12:40pm
Students don’t just learn in elementary school, they also lead. In daily class meetings, students create meeting agendas, review class agreements, solve community issues that may arise, and plan celebrations and major projects for the class.

11:24am
After a morning of learning, it’s time to eat. The elementary school’s dedicated cafeteria space in the heart of the campus features multiple food stations and up to 25 minutes for students to eat, reflect, laugh, and make plans for what lies ahead in the afternoon.

3:00pm
The school bell rings to signal the end of another school day – or so you think. While some students walk, hop on bikes, or take buses home, many pursue their passion through one of our many after school activities (ASAs), such as participating in our entry level robotics, FLL Jr.

4:10pm
If you ever want to re-energize a child, tell them there’s a pool nearby. At SAS, many of our elementary school students end the day by participating in swim club, where they practice everything from basic water safety to perfecting their back strokes for the years ahead when they swim competitively.

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