



The International School
OF MACAO | 澳門國際學校



Kindergarten

Curriculum Guide



*In a safe and caring environment,
our mission is to develop socially
responsible, life-long learners able
to problem solve, think critically,
and make positive changes
in our global community.*



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KINDERGARTEN Curriculum Guide

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Welcome from the Head of School

The International School of Macao (TIS) is a Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12 school, where our mission is to develop socially responsible, lifelong learners able to problem solve, think critically, and make positive changes in our global community. We are accredited by the Education Ministry of Alberta, Canada and our graduates receive a high school diploma that is recognized by universities around the world. At TIS, we offer the Alberta curriculum and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme for our high school students as a program of choice.

We are a positive and supportive school with the best interest of all of our students as our priority.

It is my honor and privilege to be leading a school that has an excellent reputation for providing a very high quality education and outstanding extra-curricular experiences for all students.

It is my belief that school staff, parents, guardians, and volunteers must collaborate as an effective team to create a nurturing environment. I encourage open communication between home and school at all times. If you have a comment, question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us; I know our staff will extend the same courtesy.

Mark Lockwood
Head of School



Welcome from the Principal

At TIS, our diverse student population includes children from Macau and many other countries who bring a wide variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds to our school. In addition, they bring unique educational experiences, personal strengths, needs and talents that combine to make TIS a very distinct and exciting school.

We offer a full range of learning experiences for our kindergarten and elementary students, designed to build strong foundations in reading, writing, listening and speaking, and to further develop their ability to understand and interact with others and with their world.

As our students continuously develop thinking and problem solving skills, they become increasingly independent, co-constructors of their own learning with the support and guidance of their parents and teachers. Together we strive to develop socially aware and responsible citizens who are life-long learners.

This document provides a snapshot of who we are and what we do; the parents and students who join us every day tell a more complete story of our on-going learning journey. We are very proud of our students and our program, and are always happy to welcome new families here at TIS. I look forward to seeing you and your children when you join our TIS community.

Mary-Anne Jasinski
Elementary Principal





Introducing TIS

At the International School of Macao (TIS), we provide many opportunities and support for students to explore and enhance their individuality and creativity in a truly international learning environment. We offer an outstanding and comprehensive academic program for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12. Our range of academic and extra-curricular programs allow boys and girls to nurture their emerging talents and prepare themselves for a future of learning and responsible citizenship.

TIS was established in 2002 to provide a Canadian curriculum and accreditation to local and expatriate students. TIS opened with an initial local enrollment of 58 students on the campus of Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) in 2002. By 2006, the school had grown to over 500 students and had become accredited with the Education Ministry of Alberta, Canada. Students graduate from TIS with an Alberta High School diploma that is accepted in leading universities around the world.

In 2006, the School moved into the first phase of its new, purpose-built facility on the MUST campus. Currently, the TIS campus can accommodate a total enrollment of 1600 students with facilities spread across two buildings in two wings, as well as multiple outdoor areas for sports and recreation.

Curriculum

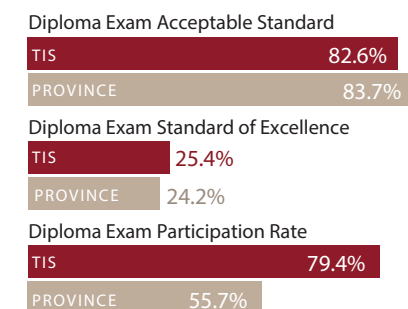
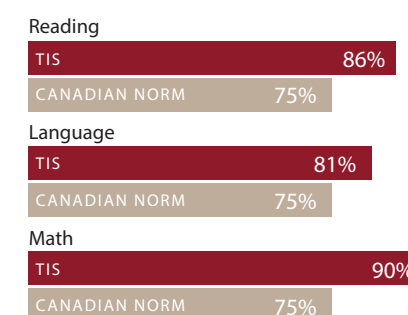
Our progressive curriculum ensures that students are best prepared for the future by cultivating skills and attitudes that enable lifelong learning and caring for the community. By aligning pedagogy, curriculum and core values, our mission is to develop socially responsible life long learners able to problem solve, think critically, and make positive changes in our global community within a safe and caring environment.

The International School of Macao (TIS) offers the Alberta, Canada provincial curriculum at all grade levels, which is the cornerstone of our successful educational program. TIS's excellent results in the most recent PISA tests (Program for International Student Assessment) show the effectiveness of the Alberta curriculum and the teaching strategies that are used at the school. As an Alberta accredited offshore school, TIS must meet rigorous requirements in order to offer this world-class curriculum.

Alberta
Accredited
International School
Canada 🇨🇦



On July 1st, 2017, TIS became authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) as an option to its curriculum for Grades 11 to 12. The two-year IB DP is a challenging and balanced pre-university educational program that is recognized around the world. The similarity between the Alberta and IB programs will allow students selecting this option to graduate with dual diplomas.



In addition to our regular curriculum, all students in Grades 3 to 11 take part in the Canadian Achievement Test (CAT). The CAT test is a standardized test which measures students' basic reading, writing and mathematical skills. When compared to the average Canadian results, our students surpass the norm in all three areas.

Our Grade 12 students are required to write standardized exams for their diploma courses, which account for 30% of the final grade in any given course. When compared to provincial results, TIS students perform better than the norm.

School Facilities

Our Campus

TIS is located within the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) campus in Taipa. Our large, modern campus allows students to take full advantage of their academic and extra curricular goals and offers a progressive and world class-learning environment, which includes state-of-the-art sports and recreational facilities.

The TIS campus is comprised of two buildings; the North and South wings which include:

- Purpose-built classrooms for kindergarten, elementary and secondary students
- Science laboratories
- Computer labs
- Robotics lab
- Black Box Theatre
- Multi-purpose hall and room
- Visual arts, drama and music studios
- Television and film studio
- Two-story library
- Discovery Centre
- Covered playgrounds
- Food preparation area
- Administration centres
- Student Services Hub
- Learning Lab



Outdoor Areas

In addition, there are multiple outdoor areas at TIS that include open common areas and spacious athletic fields that encourage students to socialize and take part in recreational activities.

Indoor and outdoor playgrounds with soft surfaces are located within the North and South wings. There are two basketball courts and a large playing field next to the school. TIS is fortunate to have a football stadium, tennis courts and gymnasium adjacent to our campus. Swimming pools, cross country trails, a skating rink and beach volleyball courts are all within a reasonable distance from the school.





Wired, Wireless, And Online

The Internet is an indispensable tool in education and TIS is committed to effective use of technology in the regular classroom. All classrooms are connected to our network and also have wireless access. In addition to regular computer labs, iPads and wireless laptops are also available for classroom use. Classrooms have SmartBoards, projectors and speaker systems. Students and parents have access to the TIS online community (class resources, report cards, and transcripts) through the school information system. All elementary teachers have a class blog for communicating and sharing. In addition, parents can keep abreast of news, events and school alerts through the TIS mobile app, which is available on iPhone and Android.

Cantina

The school's food service provider is Future Bright Group, the largest food and beverage enterprise in Macau with over 30 restaurants. Future Bright Group operates out of the a large commercial kitchen in the MPR. All meals are cooked on-site and made fresh. Future Bright provides lunch for the students.

Faculty and Staff

TIS continues to recruit high quality teachers. It is important to us that teachers have experience with the Alberta curriculum. As student enrollments increase, the number of teachers increases. Teachers are hired based on their ability to teach effectively, their familiarity with the curriculum and their ability to develop relationships with students, parents and the community.

We continue to maintain a highly skilled faculty from a variety of countries while still maintaining the necessary Canadian experience and expertise to meet our curricular demands. All teachers must be certified by Alberta Education. This is a rigorous process that ensures that all of our teachers have the necessary training and experience to deliver the curriculum. The process also includes professional and security checks as well.



The TIS Approach

Students are best prepared for the future by cultivating skills and attitudes that enable lifelong learning and caring for the community.

The primary aim of education is not simply to enable students to do well in school, but to help them to do well in the lives they lead outside of school.

We aim to teach students:

JUDGEMENT

Students tackle ambiguous problems that may have more than one correct answer. Judgement is not mere preference, but rather the ability to justify choices. Good judgement requires good reasoning abilities.

CRITICAL THINKING

Openly criticizing ideas and enjoying the nuances of critical thought are an important part of learning. Courage to advance new viewpoints should be encouraged at an early age.

MEANINGFUL LITERACY

Cultivating multiple forms of literacy and intellect, which not only include reading, writing, speaking, and numeracy, but also cultural literacy in music, visual arts and dance.

COLLABORATION

Students are given many opportunities to work with others collectively, cooperatively and harmoniously. This is especially important in a culturally diverse student population such as ours. The process of collaboration and empathy gives birth to new ideas and develops social skills.

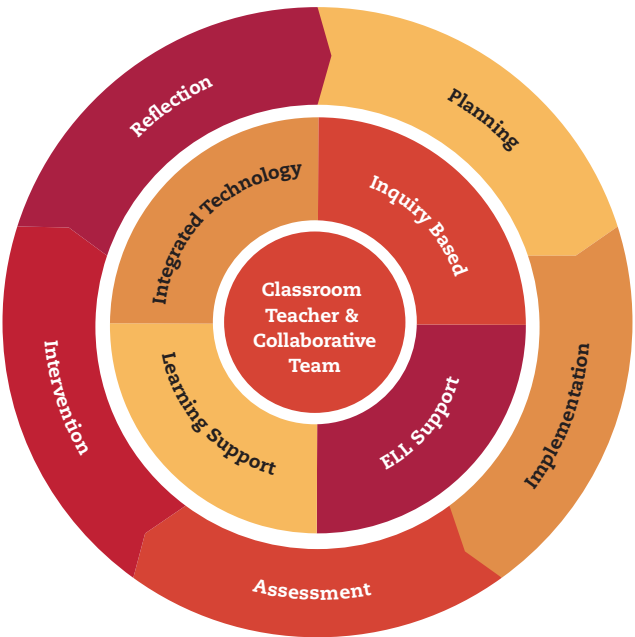
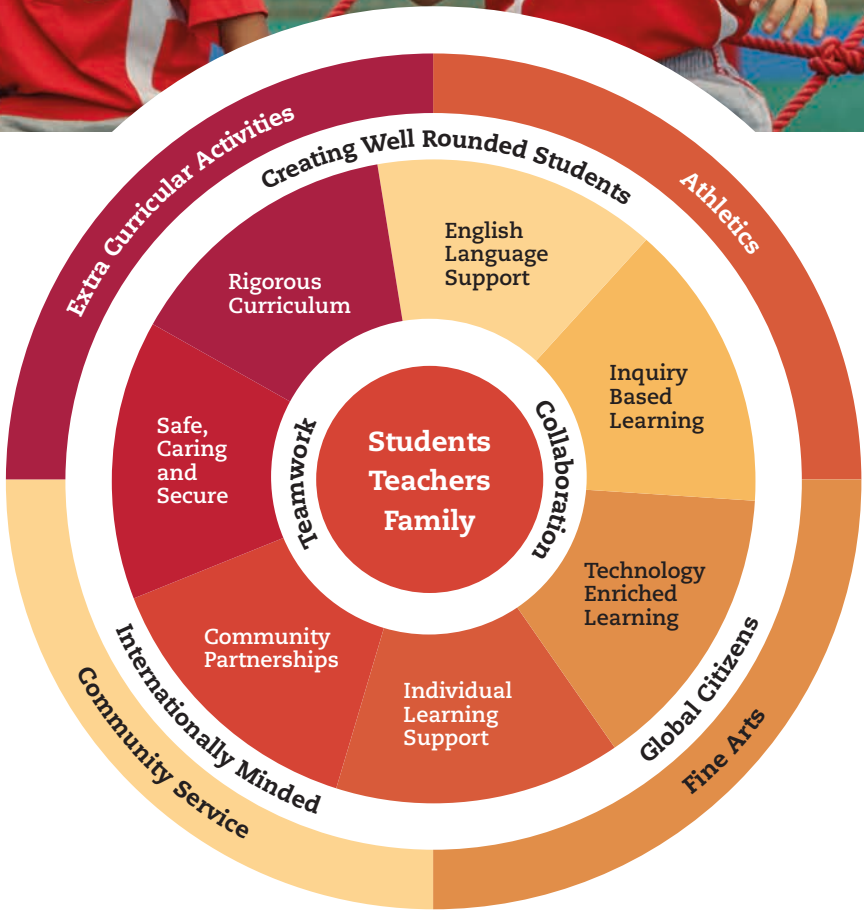
SERVICE

Students learn the value of citizenship by contributing to the school community. TIS values the importance of developing socially responsible students who are willing to make a difference in their community.



The TIS Advantage

TIS offers a holistic and student-focused approach to education where learning is valued, growth through diversity is encouraged, individual uniqueness respected, and personal excellence is fostered by dedicated staff. Enriched programs, the latest technology and a supportive environment all contribute to the education of the whole student.



TIS Integrated Learning Team

Integrated Learning at TIS allows students to construct meaning from the interrelationships across the curriculum areas. By using an inquiry-based approach, students become active learners who are able to plan, implement, assess, intervene and reflect on real-world issues and synthesize knowledge from a multitude of sources.



Learning at TIS

Introduction

TIS teachers use the Alberta Kindergarten Program Statement to create a three-year developmentally appropriate, play-based program for young learners based on contemporary education research. Our early years program includes Pre Kindergarten (PK), Junior Kindergarten (JK) and Senior Kindergarten (SK) children.

We recognize the diverse backgrounds and language experiences that children bring to our program. Children arrive curious, creative, and eager to learn through play. In a supported play-based program, teachers intentionally plan and create learning opportunities which support language and social skills development, encourage exploration and investigation, inspire curiosity, develop imagination and creativity, and provide opportunities for children to make choices, to lead, and to follow.

Kindergarten children are active learners who learn to become more independent, make decisions for themselves and begin to ask questions to make sense of the world around them. They need varied opportunities to explore their world, take risks and gain first hand experiences. Teachers guide children in their learning through the inquiry process. Children are given many opportunities to interact with their peers in fun and creative ways in order to be actively engaged in acquiring language, numeracy and social skills.



KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Early Literacy	Early Numeracy
Children learn to use language to express thoughts, feelings and experiences.	Children use mathematics to make sense of their world.
Citizenship and Identity	Environment and Community Awareness
Children learn how to be good citizens.	Children use their five senses to explore the world around them.
Personal and Social Responsibilities	Physical Skills and Well-Being
Children learn to work and play with others.	Children learn to make good choices in their life.
Creative Expression	
Children express feelings and ideas through music, drama and art.	

(Alberta Government, 2015)



Early Literacy

The foundation of all communication is language. Early literacy focuses on children’s engagement in the acquisition of language and the construction of their own understandings of how oral and written language works.



Early Numeracy

An awareness of numeracy and mathematical concepts begins even before children enter Kindergarten. Positive early years experiences in mathematics are instrumental in numeracy development, which can then be built upon through lifelong learning. In Early Numeracy, learning centers on the development of numbers and spatial sense in children.



Citizenship and Identity

Citizenship and identity concentrates on the development of a strong sense of identity, self-esteem and belonging. In Kindergarten, children explore who they are in relation to others in their world.



Environment and Community Awareness

Children become aware of the five senses and use them to explore, investigate and describe the world around them; their environment and community.



Personal and Social Responsibility

This learning area encompasses the development of personal and social management skills that are necessary for effective learning across all subject areas. In Kindergarten, children start to acquire and practice the skills that they will continue to enhance throughout their lives.



Physical Skills and Well-Being (Physical Education)

In formative years, children need assistance with the development of the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes that lead to continual involvement in physical activity. Physical activity is important to all aspects of normal growth and development. The aim of physical education is to enable children to make informed healthy choices and to develop behaviors that contribute to the well being of self and others.

Creative Expression (Arts, Music and Drama)

Children can express, explore and present their thoughts and feelings through visual arts, music, drama and movement. Children become aware of their own imagination and creativity and that of others as they interact with a variety of materials and respond to various forms of expression.



Kindergarten Assessment and Reporting

At TIS, Kindergarten children receive three report cards per year and there are two scheduled times in the school year when parents visit the classroom to learn more about their child's learning. One is a parent-teacher interview in the fall when parents and teachers exchange information and parents learn about their child's progress and achievements. The other is a student-led conference which is held in the spring when the children have the opportunity to interact with their parents and demonstrate their learning.

Placement

At TIS, we place children according to their year of birth. All classrooms include children with a wide range of ability levels and English proficiency levels. TIS provides inclusive, heterogeneous classes. Each year, class lists are developed with the following ratio considerations: male to female and native English speakers to English language learners. Additionally, diverse academic abilities and relationships between children are taken into account.

The International School of Macao is a vibrant and interactive community where teachers, students, staff and parents are passionately dedicated to learning and the cultivation of mind, body and spirit. Our curriculum guide offers you a glimpse of the school, but we hope that this publication will invite you to explore further.



Appendix

Life in Kindergarten

Attendance/Absences

Attendance is a key factor in student success. All absences affect student progress and achievement. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that children attend school regularly and punctually.

Whenever possible, parents should notify the homeroom teacher and school office of an absence before it occurs. Parents may also use the absentee notification on the TIS Mobile app. A child who is sick must stay home for his/her own benefit and to avoid spreading the illness. Parents are to contact the nurse or first aid attendant regarding medicine that is to be administered.

When a teacher believes that poor attendance or late attendance are affecting a student's achievement, the teacher will arrange a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss the problem.



Settling-in Period

At the beginning of the new school year at TIS, a staggered entry is offered to children when they start in Pre Kindergarten class. The children are gradually integrated into their Pre K class to allow them to settle in and familiarize themselves with their surroundings, including their new teachers. From experience, a staggered entry is an effective way to ensure that Pre K children have a relaxed and enjoyable start to their Kindergarten experience. Therefore, it may take two weeks before all of the children have been settled into Pre Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Teachers

Each classroom has a certified teacher and a teacher assistant. All Kindergarten students have daily Mandarin instruction and participate in physical activities.

Kindergarten Hours

8.25 a.m. – 3.05 p.m.

Parent Drop-off

Upon arrival, parents can drop off SK children at the outdoor classroom, JK children at multi-purpose room (MPR3) and PK children at class when doors open at 8:20 a.m.

Parent Pick-up

Parents wait at the Kindergarten doors until 3.00 p.m. When the doors are opened, parents can go to the classrooms to pick up their children.

Changes to Pick-up Routine

Please inform the homeroom teacher if there is a change in the pick-up routine. If the change is for that day, parents must call and inform the office directly. In this case, children can only be picked up from the classroom and not from Kiss 'N' Ride or the bus.

Rainy Days

If it is raining in the morning, SK and PK children will go to the classroom while JK children will go into the MPR3 to be supervised until 8.25 a.m.

Lunchtime

All students eat lunch at school. Kindergarten children eat lunch in MPR3 and are supervised by school staff. Children may bring their own lunch or order lunch from a private company operating out of the school. Parents are not able to go to the classrooms to drop off lunches. In an emergency, parents can take a child's lunch to the office.

Recess and Breaks

Children are given regular outside break times throughout the day. On rainy days, children stay in the classrooms to play.

School Rules

At TIS, children are expected to play in a safe and respectful manner. For the safety of all, rough play is not acceptable.

Children are asked not to bring personal items to school. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

Children are expected to walk through the school building in a safe and orderly manner. Children are to walk in the Kindergarten hallway, and not be carried by parents or guardians.

Children may use the elevator only if accompanied by an adult.

Appropriate uniforms are to be worn at all times.

Information about uniform guidelines and which items should be purchased can be obtained from our school office and from our website.

Health and Safety

First Aid

A nurse or first aid attendant is on staff during regular school hours. If a student is injured or feels ill, he or she will be taken to the First Aid Office. An assessment will be made and treatment provided as necessary. Parents will be notified if the illness/injury warrants examination by a doctor and/or the student needs to leave the school early. Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up sick or injured children.

Allergies – No Nuts

Parents are asked to refrain from sending peanuts (or other nuts) to school with their children. Some of our students have a severe allergic reaction to nuts.

Road Safety

TIS experiences heavy congestion before and after school. Please use the designated crosswalks (zebra crossings) whenever possible. Drivers are reminded to practice extra care and to drive slowly.



School Services

Food Service

All students eat lunch at school. Kindergarten students eat lunch in MPR3. The school's food service provider is Future Bright Group, the largest food and beverage enterprise in Macau with over 30 restaurants. Future Bright Group operates out of a large commercial kitchen in the MPR. All meals are cooked on-site and made fresh.

Meals are overseen by an executive chef and must be approved by a nutritionist. Meal choices include Western-style food, Asian-style food and a variety of other healthy options. Students who do not order on a monthly basis may purchase meals individually. Students may also purchase additional drinks and snacks.

An order form for choosing meals is provided for parents and students every month. Parents may also access the TIS meal ordering system on our school website to place a food order for their children.

Elementary Library (Pre K to Grade 6)

The Elementary library is open from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Monday to Friday. Parents are encouraged to visit the elementary school library with their children before and after school. They may sign out resources as needed. The library staff are happy to help students locate and use resources for study purposes, or locate a book to meet individual interests.

School Store

Uniforms, backpacks, hats, scarves, lanyards, mugs, pens and USB's can be purchased at the school store located in North Wing Room 1540. TIS School Spirit merchandise can also be purchased.

Lost and Found

A school wide lost and found box is located next to the security desk on the ground floor. Items are kept for two weeks. Expensive items are held in the school office. There is a small lost and found box near the Kindergarten doors for hats and other small items lost in the Kindergarten area.

Transportation

Busing

TIS has arranged for door-to-door service provided by a reputable company at reasonable rates and paid directly by families using the service. Registration forms are available on the school website or in the school office.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

The Kiss N Ride program provides a queuing service to safely drop off and pick up students. Parents need to register for the Kiss N Ride program by completing the appropriate documents available on the school website or at the school office. We advise parents who have children in Pre K to Grade 3 to use Kiss N Ride for drop-off and pick-up as it is a safer option for younger students.

Parking

Parking is available in the parking lot between the MUST Gymnasium and Hospital or in the parking spaces near the MUST Library.

TIS staff members in orange vests direct traffic during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up; please follow their directions at all times to ensure the safety of TIS students.



Entrance and Parking Permits

All vehicles entering the MUST campus must display a MUST entrance/parking permit. TIS provides one permit per family free of charge. Forms are available on our school website or at the school office.

Home and School Communications

Email

Teachers often use email to communicate with parents. Parents are welcome to email teachers with questions, comments or requests for interviews.

Seesaw

Teachers share news, announcements and photos with parents through Seesaw. Parents can access the Seesaw blog via a link; this link will be shared by the classroom teacher.

Facebook

Students and parents can stay connected with TIS via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TISMacao "Like" our page and receive posts automatically, an easy and convenient way to stay informed about the latest TIS news and events.

TIS Mobile App

Stay up to date with school events and activities, receive important alerts for weather and cancellations, find contact info and school links, and send an absentee notice when your child is away from school. Available for iPhone and Android. Download on the App Store: <http://apple.co/296DB20> or get it on Google play: <http://bit.ly/295QtmQ>



Newsletters

TIS publishes an online newsletter. The newsletter is used to inform parents of school functions and plans, report any changes in school procedures and policies, feature children's accomplishments, and as a community notice board for items pertaining to TIS and its families. Sign up to receive the newsletter at:

<http://news.tis.edu.mo/parents>

Twitter and Instagram

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram **@TISMacao** to receive the latest TIS news and events.

Curriculum Night

In September, the school hosts a Curriculum Night for parents where teachers present their schedule of studies and explain the educational programs to be used during the year.

Report Cards

Kindergarten children receive three report cards per year.

Parent/Teacher Interviews & Student-led Conferences

There are two scheduled times when parents come to the school during the school year. Parent/Teacher interviews are held in November when parents and teachers meet to exchange information about their children and parents are informed of recent progress.

Student-led conferences are held in April. At these conferences, children are in charge and are given the opportunity to showcase their work so that parents can learn about their child's progress at school.

Additional Meetings

Parents may request additional meetings with the academic staff at any time. Please contact the school office to schedule an appointment. Teachers are generally available before and after class.

Additional Parent Information

Counselling

Child, parent and family counselling is available in English and Cantonese. Children may be referred to a counsellor or parents may request a counsellor meet with their child. Additional appointments can be made in the school office.

Extra Curricular Activities

Extra curricular activities are a fun and important part of the school experience. TIS provides many opportunities for JK and SK children to get involved. Many outside agencies also provide additional activities at or near the school. These are listed with the sign up forms when available.

Inclement Weather Policy

The school's first priority when dealing with inclement weather is the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and parents. Further information is available on the school website or at the school office.

Playground

Junior and senior kindergarten are welcome to use the playground before and after school. A parent or guardian must supervise children who use the playground before or after school. It is expected that the parent or guardian ensures that their child is playing safely.



Visitors

TIS invites parents and community members to be involved at the school. For the sake of security, TIS families must register for a Parent ID badge to wear in the school, while other visitors are required to sign in at the Security Counter to obtain a Visitor ID badge. Visitors must return the ID badge prior to leaving.

TIS receives many additional visitors during the course of the year. TIS staff supervise school tours for government officials, prospective families and educational partners.

Volunteers

Parents are invited to play an active role in the educational process of their children by volunteering on an occasional or regular basis. Homeroom teachers coordinate the volunteers within their own classes. Volunteering is an excellent way to experience and contribute to TIS educational programs. Parents who volunteer for extended times are given a Volunteer ID badge to assist with security.





The International School

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