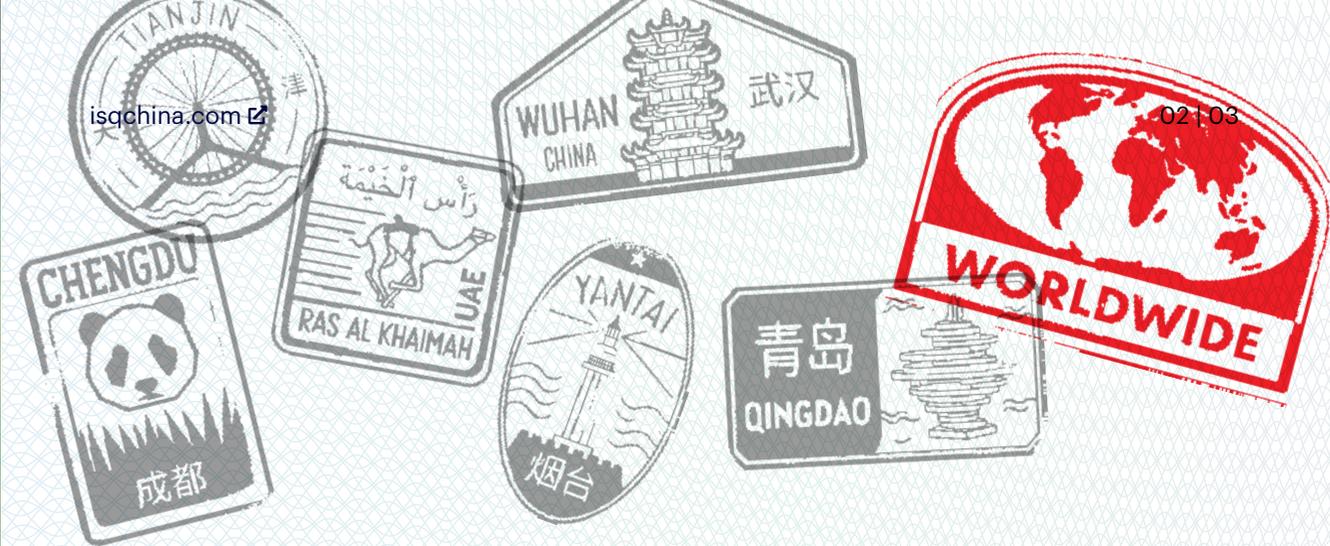


A young boy with cat face paint is sitting on a colorful striped blanket at a playground. He is wearing a blue shirt and has a joyful expression with his mouth open. In the background, there is a large yellow and white slide on a green lawn. The text "A lifelong impact by learning, loving and leading" is overlaid in white, followed by "Our annual report 2024-25" in a larger, bold white font.

A lifelong impact  
by learning,  
loving and leading  
**Our annual  
report 2024-25**



“Many of our Class of 2025 students will be in America next year pursuing their interests in art, hospitality, psychology, physical therapy, business, government and more. I am so proud of all of our students and excited for them to take the next steps into the world.”  
Megan Lee, College+Career Counselor



## Rooted and reaching out

### A note from the LifePlus CEO

Healthy growth always begins with strong roots. For LifePlus, those roots are found in our shared mission: to see lives transformed through education that shapes both the mind and the heart.

Over the past year, those roots have continued to grow deeper. We've invested in academic programs, strengthened leadership development for our educators and shared expertise across our network of schools. We've also continued to reach outward—fostering partnerships in support of refugee educational services in Cairo, Egypt—to help extend that same impact of learning and transformation to more students globally.

For families, this matters because your child's school is part of a living, connected system. A teacher in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, can collaborate with colleagues in China. Leadership teams can share strategies, resources and innovations. Students gain access to opportunities that extend beyond their own campus—such as advanced courses and global learning pathways that prepare them for universities and futures around the world.

We know the world your children will enter as adults is complex and changing. Our system-wide strength gives us the ability to adapt, support one another, and provide the kind of stable, excellent education that equips students for whatever lies ahead.

As we look to the future, we do so with confidence—not in our size, but in our shared purpose. Thank you for being part of this growing story.



**Martin Klopper**  
Chief Executive Officer

**LifePlus...**

## From our Head of School

### Review of last year

This past year at the International School of Qingdao has been a remarkable journey of growth, resilience and reconnection.

Stepping into my first year as Head of School, I've been deeply encouraged by the spirit of this community—students, staff and families coming together with purpose, flexibility and a shared belief in the power of learning. Together, we've nurtured each student's academic, social and emotional growth while staying true to our mission: to inspire every learner to embrace curiosity, build resilience and make a meaningful impact in an ever-changing world.

Some of the year's highlights were the vibrant, community-building events that brought us closer. From our globally themed International Day to the energy of China Week and the joy of hosting LifePlus' first-ever Kids Read event, each occasion rekindled connection and celebrated the diversity that defines our community.

Academically, we've strengthened learning through the integration and continual improvement of Canvas, our schoolwide learning platform. With 24/7 access to resources and stronger communication between home and school, Canvas is helping students and families stay connected and engaged.

We've also reimagined and enriched our physical learning environment. This year we launched major upgrades to our ECC/Elementary playground—the first large-scale renovation since the building opened—adding new turf and expanded play structures. Inside, upgraded furniture and lighting in

the main lobby and 3G Café have created warm, welcoming spaces for students, parents and guests to connect and feel at home.

Looking ahead, we're committed to cultivating an inclusive, supportive community where every member feels seen, valued and inspired to grow. With energy, kindness and a shared vision for excellence, I'm confident we will continue building something extraordinary together.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

With gratitude and excitement,



**Gabe Lee**  
Head of School

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## Growing up in Qingdao

### A brief history



## 1996

### Small beginnings

The very first international school in Qingdao and Shandong province, International School of Qingdao, opens its doors on September 23, 1996, welcoming our initial cohort of eight foreign students.

## 2005

### A year of many firsts

We earn the first accreditation from Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in Qingdao and Shandong, graduate our first class of six students, and become a founding member school of the Association of China and Mongolia International Schools (ACAMIS).

## 2007

### Expanding for Qingdao's growing international community

Our community moves to our third campus in Shazikou to accommodate more students and help develop the neighboring Chinese school's educational program.

## 2011

### Pioneering Qingdao's early childhood education

Founded in play, exploration and the latest research, we build our dedicated Early Childhood Center (ECC) on a separate campus.

## 2017

### A unified home for our transformative education

Our school continues to evolve and moves to the Licang district. With our new campus, we unify our Early Childhood Center (ECC) on the same facility.

## 2021

### Birthday celebrations and new accreditation

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, our school proudly boasts more than 400 high school graduates. To date, we have welcomed over 400 teachers and staff, enrolled more than 2,400 students and are witnessing countless lives transformed. Furthermore, we transition our accreditation to Cognia—the world's leading education improvement organization, which is a conglomerate of three American accreditation bodies: NCA CASI, NWAC and SACS CASI.

## Part of the LifePlus family

### Accreditation

Life Plus...



Through LifePlus, our school is accredited by Cognia, a world-renowned educational body that recognizes the incredibly high standards of our work and continues to evaluate our performance. LifePlus also benefits us in three important areas.

First, LifePlus helps us to innovate: sharing research, knowledge and ideas. Second, LifePlus is a truly international and robust setup that lets us focus on what we do best: growing servant leaders of outstanding character, competence and calling. Third, LifePlus makes International School of Qingdao more than a local school, connecting us to a worldwide network of talent, knowledge and support. To learn more, visit [lifeplusworldwide.com](http://lifeplusworldwide.com)

International School of Qingdao is accredited by Cognia, the largest education improvement organization in the world—demonstrating our commitment to learners, teachers, leaders and communities. Being Cognia-accredited, the incredibly high standards of our work are recognized globally, and our performance continually evaluated—raising us higher, taking our students further.



1 Tianjin International School  
[tiseagles.com](http://tiseagles.com)

3 International School of Qingdao  
[isqchina.com](http://isqchina.com)

5 Chengdu International School  
[cdischina.com](http://cdischina.com)

2 Yantai Huasheng International School  
[yhischina.com](http://yhischina.com)

4 Wuhan Yangtze International School  
[wyischina.com](http://wyischina.com)

6 The WellSpring Private School  
[tws-rak.org](http://tws-rak.org)

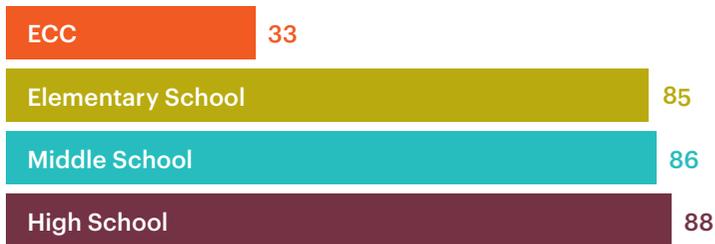
## Who we are

### Demographics

#### Student population

# 292

Total enrollment



#### Student nationalities

# 21

Passport countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China (Hong Kong, Taiwan), Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Moldova, Myanmar (Burma), Russia, South Africa, South Korea, St. Lucia, UK and USA

#### Teachers

# 61

Passport countries include Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Jamaica, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, UK and USA

#### Average class size

# 13.5

ECC × 11  
Elementary School × 17  
Middle School × 15  
High School × 11

#### Teacher: Student ratio

# 1:5

#### Average years of teaching experience

# 6 years

#### Post baccalaureate studies

# 48%

 of our teachers and staff have a Master's or Doctorate degree.

## What we do and why

### Our values

At Qingdao, we desire for our students to grow in more than knowledge. That's why we spend time and great care investing in character education for all our students. The LifePlus Qualities for Life help guide everything we do. From administrators to kindergarteners, we strive to be...



#### People who learn

We are *purposeful, curious and discerning.*



#### People who love

We are *connected, courageous and compassionate.*

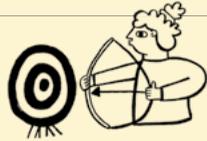


#### People who lead

We are *humble and persistent in service.*

## LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life

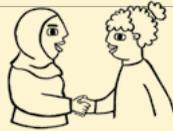
### Purpose



*I treat myself and every person with intrinsic value and purpose.*

- *I strategically use* the gifts and talents that I have to accomplish bigger purposes.
- *I look for* deeper meaning and explanations and I am not content with appearances or easy answers.

### Connection



*I value people* and so I invest in communication, language learning and understanding the cultures in which I live.

- *I collaborate* effectively and respectfully with people from any culture.
- *I build and maintain* healthy relationships with others in my life.

### Humility



*I have an accurate picture* of my abilities, thinking neither too highly nor too lowly of myself.

- *I acknowledge* my limitations and my need for help, as well as accept criticism and demonstrate a teachable spirit.
- *I demonstrate* good sportsmanship.

### Curiosity



*I investigate and explore* by asking questions and critically thinking about the answers.

- *I am eager* for authentic knowledge, wisdom and understanding.
- *I refuse* to let others do my thinking for me or cheat myself out of learning opportunities.

### Compassion



*I show empathy* for others and look for ways to make a difference.

- *I listen carefully and think deeply* to determine the best response or action.
- *I will communicate* my beliefs with clarity and respect.

### Service



*I make available* my gifts, talents, time, energy and enthusiasm to serve the needs of those around me.

- *I show love* towards the world around me by being a responsible caretaker of our resources.

### Discernment



*I can see and understand* people, things or situations clearly.

- *I use knowledge* to make wise choices and judgments, speak the truth and live with integrity.

### Courage



*I take risks* and boldly do what is best.

- *I am willing to ask* questions and make mistakes.
- *I persist* in thinking, inquiring and discussing even in the presence of threat or fear.

### Persistence



*I strive for excellence and practice diligence* to get things right; I don't give up.

- *I respectfully communicate* until I am understood and question until I understand.
- *I approach challenges* with tenacity, creativity and thinking.



# A year of purpose, curiosity and discernment

## We learn

### ECC + Elementary School highlights

Our youngest learners explored reading and writing in dynamic new ways this year. In April, we welcomed British author and illustrator Kev Payne, whose storytelling and workshops inspired students from Foundations through Grade 5 to see how creative language can bring their ideas to life. In November, our Health Fair sparked curiosity about topics from nutrition to the cardiovascular system to emotional well-being. Another milestone was launching our first Student-Led Conferences, where students curated portfolios and shared reflections with their families—building confidence, ownership and a sense of purpose.

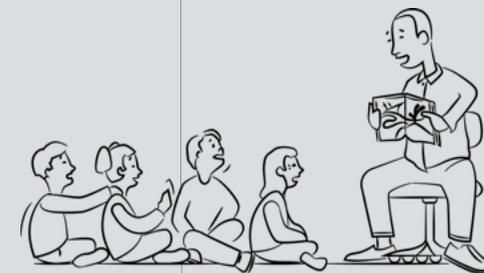


### Middle School highlights

Middle schoolers embraced learning with curiosity, creativity and collaboration. From designing and testing machines in our growing robotics program to leading their own Student-Led Conferences, they stepped into deeper ownership of their education. One highlight was the Middle School Science Fair, where students investigated their own scientific questions through hands-on experiments and critical thinking—developing both skill and confidence.

### High School highlights

In High School, students grew as thinkers, leaders and communicators. The annual Science Fair encouraged in-depth research and innovation, while Student-Led Conferences prompted meaningful reflection on personal growth. A growing number also took part in on-campus internships, contributing to school life through event support, communication, athletics and tech. These opportunities helped students apply learning in real-world contexts—preparing them not just for exams but for life beyond the classroom.



*“Through my internship in the Marketing Office, I’ve had the chance to work on photography and video production, and to see what marketing looks like in the real world. I’ve learned practical skills that go beyond the regular classroom—and I’ve really enjoyed the experience along the way.”*  
Bruce J., Grade 11



# A year of connection, courage and compassion

## We love



### School houses and character recognition

Through divisional assemblies and house activities, students of all ages were celebrated for displaying the LifePlus 9 qualities. Teachers nominated students for Character Quality Awards, and ECC/elementary students earned house coins for kind and respectful actions. Weekly and monthly house competitions—built unity and school spirit, culminating in a final celebration and special prize for the winning house—reinforcing that character matters every day, not just on special occasions.



### Well-being and connection

This year, our counseling and well-being teams focused on whole-student care. High school students received thoughtful well-being packs during AP exam week, and all students took part in a relaxation assembly to pause, recharge and protect their mental health. Advisory groups created space for connection and mentorship, while our phone-free secondary environment encouraged students to be present and build lasting, face-to-face relationships.



### Compassion Day

Students lived out empathy and service during our annual Compassion Day, welcoming children from Tongxin School to our campus. They planned activities, created cards, prepared snacks and gifts, and worked behind the scenes to set up and clean up. The joy of the day reminded our students that serving others and looking outward is a powerful way to live out our values.





### Memories through shared experiences

Shared challenges built shared strength. Elementary students tackled the annual Laoshan Hike with courage and teamwork, while Grades 6–12 traveled across China on Spring Trips—experiencing adventure, cultural appreciation and deeper connection. These experiences strengthened peer relationships, deepened student–teacher bonds and gave students a chance to put character into action.



## A year of humility, persistence and service

### We lead

#### Student-led clubs and initiatives

This year, our high school students led 12 active clubs—each one a platform for leadership, creativity and service. From planning International School of Qingdao’s first-ever TEDx event to launching schoolwide drives and translation projects, student leaders showed

initiative, teamwork and follow-through. Student Council’s Yule Bash—a murder mystery game night—brought the high school community together for fun and connection. Through weekly meetings, event planning and volunteer work, club leaders shaped the student experience and grew into confident, community-minded leaders.





**Model United Nations (MUNISQ XVI)**

The 16th annual MUNISQ conference, themed Solutions for the Intractable, brought together more than 180 students from LifePlus and Qingdao’s other international schools. Planned almost entirely by our students—including 10 on the Executive Team—the conference developed public speaking, diplomacy, media and real-world problem-solving skills. Secretary-General Gina Lee reflected on her leadership journey and the growth she saw across the team. Several high school delegates earned awards, and every participant walked away with stronger collaboration, communication and organizational abilities.

**Service in action: NHS and beyond**

Students put compassion into motion through service projects all year long. The National Honor Society led the Global 6K for Water—this time hosted at World Expo Park—raising awareness and support for global water access. Students also served through StuCo, Serve the City and the Service and Leadership class, making an impact in both the ISQ and Qingdao communities. From mentoring younger students to coordinating donation drives, they made service personal, practical and powerful.

**Odyssey and personal growth**

The Odyssey program played a key role in shaping character and leadership this year. It offered wellness workshops to secondary students, introduced tools for positive self-talk and even hosted a parent session on raising emotionally healthy cross-cultural kids. Over the summer holiday, several students joined an Odyssey service trip to Yunnan—serving in new environments and learning through hands-on experiences. These opportunities grow leadership from the inside out, helping students become not only capable leaders but also compassionate ones.



# A year of arts, athletics and activities

## Extra-curricular

### Athletics

At our school, athletics is more than competition—it's character in action. Through team sports, students build persistence, leadership, humility and a strong sense of teamwork, learning to serve others and give their best for the good of the group.

This year, students competed in LifePlus and QISN tournaments across volleyball, soccer and basketball, earning standout results: high school girls volleyball champions, high school soccer champions for both boys and girls, and strong finishes for our middle school basketball teams. New opportunities like the LifePlus badminton competition and our golf club welcomed more students into meaningful, active learning.



Our school also hosted the QISN U19 Basketball Tournament, featuring a student-led livestream from the digital media class and entertainment by the high school pep band. From first-time players to seasoned athletes, students discovered growth, connection and joy through sport.

Athletics continues to be a vital part of how we nurture confident, resilient learners who lead with purpose.

### Fine Arts

Fine arts are a meaningful part of student life, giving students space to express creativity, collaborate and grow in confidence. Whether completing a studio project, preparing a musical piece or performing on stage, they learn persistence, focus and joy in the process.

This year, 45 students participated in the LifePlus Fine Arts Festival in Tianjin—the largest group we've ever taken—earning solo and group awards and exploring Beijing's Art District. On campus, over 120 secondary students performed in the end-of-semester Fine Arts Gala, drawing a full audience and showcasing rich collaboration between ensembles and grade levels.

High school band members also represented our school in the community, performing at the German Christmas Market and the QISN U19 Basketball Tournament. In elementary, students explored a variety of instruments from ukuleles to tubanos, while middle and high school students engaged in an impressive range of fine arts electives that build skill and spark artistic passion.



**After school activities**

This year, our elementary after school activities program ran across both semesters, offering a rotating variety of courses on Mondays and Wednesdays.

With nearly 20 engaging options in sports, arts, technology and life skills, students had the chance to explore new interests and grow beyond the classroom. Popular choices included floriculture, where students arranged beautiful bouquets, and woodcraft, where they designed creative, hands-on

projects. From skateboarding and rugby to jazz dance, computer science and cooking, these activities built confidence, creativity and collaboration—supporting the whole-child development we value at our school.

*Activities offered this year included:* skateboard, violin, cup stacking, jazz, computer science, crochet, steel tongue drum, soccer, acrylic painting, science class, international chess, golf, floriculture, tennis, woodcraft, rugby, cooking, oil painting and choir.



**Alumni connections**

This year, our school community had the joy of reconnecting with alumni who shared insight and encouragement with current students. At the annual Senior Departure Seminar in Wuhan, Class of 2024 graduate Jennifer Ha reflected on her first year at university in South Korea, offering practical advice and personal reflections.

In April, Class of 2015 alumna Stephanie Soh joined seniors virtually to share her journey from ISQ to university and into her career as a lawyer. These meaningful connections reminded students that while graduation marks the end of one chapter, they remain part of a lifelong community.

**Chinese**

This year, the Chinese program brought language and culture to life through hands-on experiences and vibrant celebrations. Students made their own mooncakes during the Mid-Autumn Festival, showcasing creativity through colorful designs and traditional patterns.

During China Week, student performances lit up

the stage—including a glow-in-the-dark dance and a captivating guest magician. In Reading Month, students deepened their connection to Chinese literature and culture. A highlight from the high school native Chinese class was the launch of a self-designed magazine, blending powerful writing with creative visual design—a true display of bilingual expression and pride.



## How we measure up

# Standardized test results

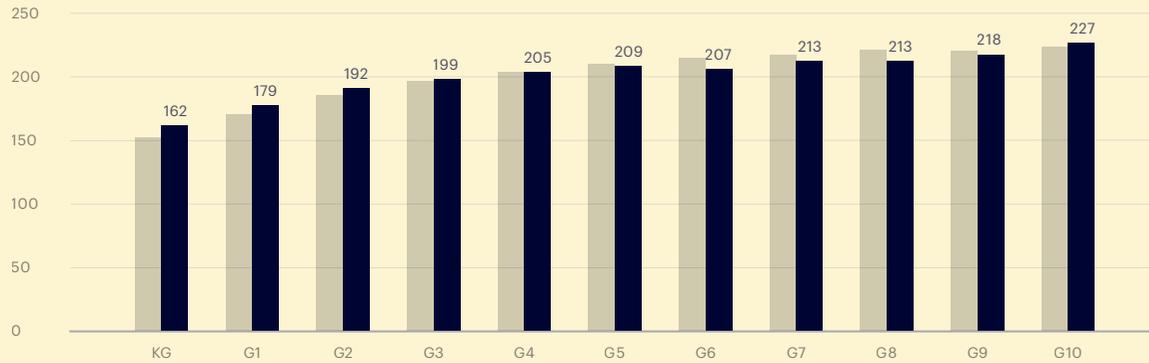
### MAP® (Measures of Academic Progress)

Aligning with the LifePlus-adopted AERO standards, MAP® Growth™ assessments serve more than 13 million students in the USA and abroad. The subject specific assessments measure both student achievement and growth in math, reading, language usage and science.

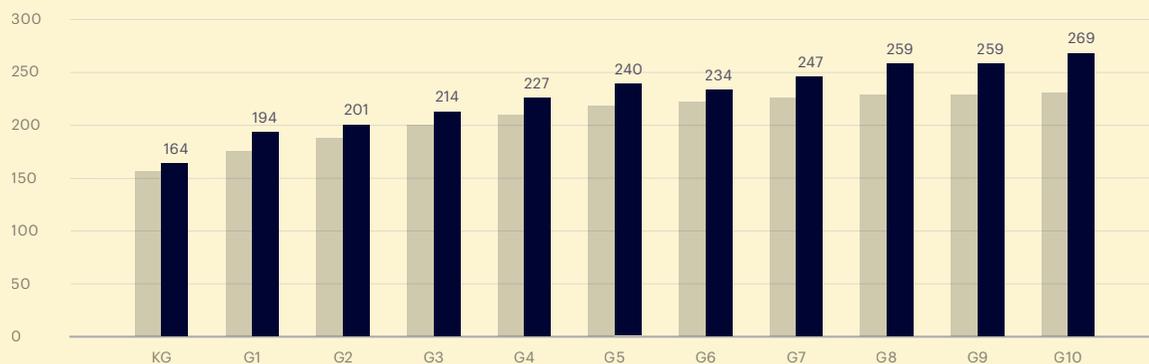
At International School of Qingdao, MAP® Growth™ assessments in reading and math are taken by students in Kindergarten through Grade 10. Students in Grades 2-10 are also tested in language usage, and students in Grades 6-8 are tested in science.

● International School of Qingdao average    ● USA average

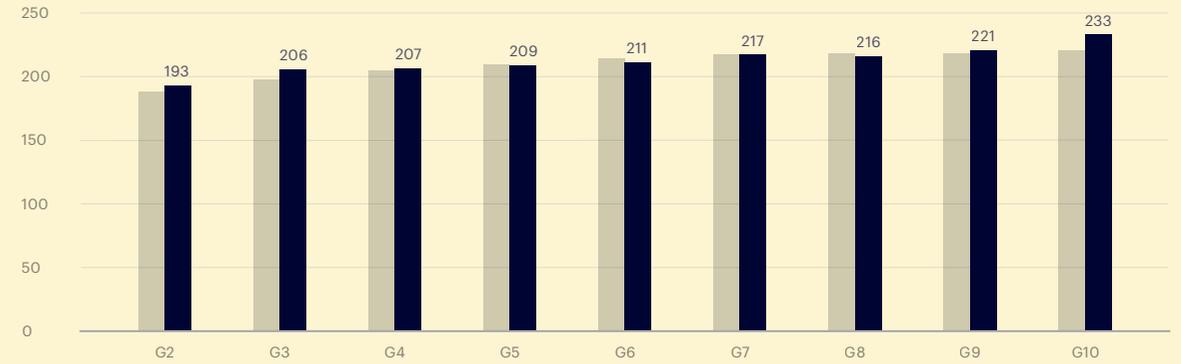
MAP Growth® average reading scores



MAP Growth® average math scores



MAP Growth® average language usage scores



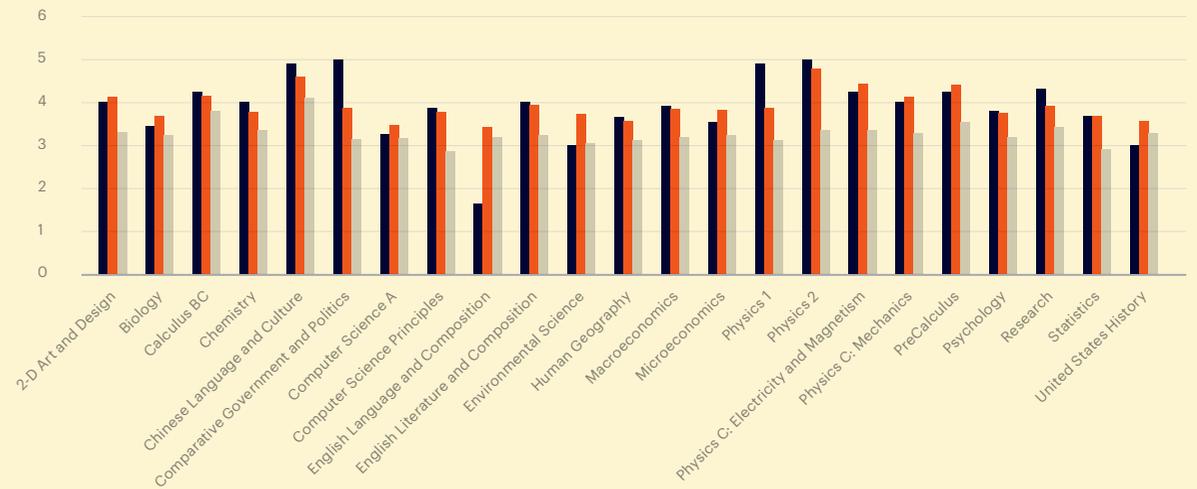
### AP® (Advanced Placement)

College Board's AP® program provides high school students with university-level curricula and exams. Universities worldwide consider AP scores in student acceptance, and many universities offer course credits to students with test scores of 3 or higher.

This profile highlights International School of Qingdao's average score on each 2025 subject-area AP exam, comparing it to the LifePlus schools' 5-year average and the 2025 global average.

● International School of Qingdao 2025    ● LifePlus 5-year    ● 2025 Global

2025 AP® exam results



## Next steps on the learning journey

### University acceptances

Students at International School of Qingdao and other schools in the LifePlus family, have been accepted at colleges and universities this academic year including:

#### Australia

Griffith University  
James Cook University (JCU)  
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

#### Canada

University of British Columbia  
University of Northern British Columbia  
University of Toronto  
University of Toronto Mississauga

#### China

Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
The Education University of Hong Kong  
The University of Hong Kong  
Shenzhen University

#### Malaysia

Universiti Putra Malaysia  
Universiti Sains Malaysia

#### South Korea

Choongang University  
Hanyang University  
Korea University  
Kyonggi University  
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)  
Seoul National University  
Sungkyunkwan University  
Sungsil University  
Yonsei University

#### Singapore

LaSalle College of the Arts  
Nanyang Technological University  
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)  
Singapore University of Social Sciences

#### UK

University of Oxford

#### USA

Air Force Academy  
Arizona State University  
ArtCenter College of Design  
Boston College  
Brigham Young University  
Cairn University

Case Western Reserve University  
Central Washington University  
California College of the Arts (CCA)  
Drake University  
Emory University  
Faith Baptist University  
Fordham University  
Iowa State University  
Loyola University  
Michigan State University  
Northeastern University  
Occidental College  
Ohio State University  
Parsons School of Design, New York  
Pennsylvania State University (University Park)  
Pepperdine University  
Pratt Institute (Communications Design)  
Purdue University  
Purdue University Fort Wayne  
Rivier University  
Rutgers University  
Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)  
Seattle University  
State University of New York, Stony Brook (Stony Brook University)

Syracuse University  
Texas A&M University  
University at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo)  
University of California, (Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz)  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Connecticut  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
University of Michigan  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
University of Michigan-Flint  
University of Miami  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of Northern Iowa  
University of Portland  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Texas at Dallas  
University of Washington Bothell  
Virginia Tech

## How we intend to grow

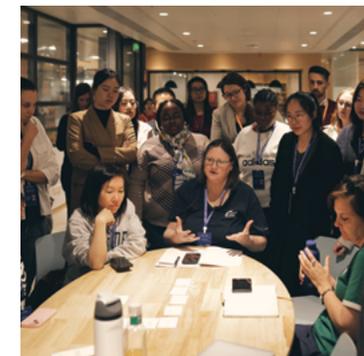
### Our goals for 2025–26

As the first and finest international school in Shandong Province, we take immense pride in shaping servant leaders who learn with passion, love with purpose, and lead with impact.

#### Celebrations

Globally recognized by Cognia® and backed by LifePlus, the International School of Qingdao continually delivers world-class education through inspiring teachers, innovative learning and a curriculum designed to unlock every student’s potential.

This year, we celebrate a community committed to growth, excellence and care. Our teachers dedicated countless hours to professional development—through monthly Communities of Practice calls with LifePlus, as well as off-campus opportunities like the ACAMIS conference on “English through All Subjects.” These efforts continue to



enrich classroom practice and support student success.

This year, we saw a measurable increase in the frequency and clarity of communication between parents, students and teachers—a goal we named in last year’s report and one our entire community helped bring to life. The result has been stronger partnership, greater transparency and a shared sense of direction across every grade level.

Our character education—rooted in the LifePlus 9 Qualities—continues to shape students who lead with integrity, resilience and compassion as they step confidently into top universities around the world.

#### Goals for 2025–26

Looking ahead, we’re expanding opportunities for students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

We’re strengthening our STEM and Robotics programs with additional staffing and resources to better equip students with 21st-century skills. We’re investing even further in character development—ensuring our students grow not just in knowledge but in purpose and leadership. And we’ll continue to enrich student life through a full range of after-school programs, arts and athletics—because every child deserves a place to explore their passions and discover who they are becoming. The future is bright, and we’re building it...together.





Learn more at  
[isqchina.com](http://isqchina.com)

ISQ\_Dolphins  
ISQDolphins  
isq\_dolphins



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**International School of Qingdao**  
26 Tianshui Road, Licang District  
Qingdao, Shandong Province  
China 266041

Phone +86 (532) 8881-5668  
Email [admissions@isqchina.com](mailto:admissions@isqchina.com)