

A year  
committed to  
learning, loving  
and leading  
**Our annual  
report 2022-23**



“I feel very easily integrated in the school community. Even if you’re coming from afar or a different school, immediately [students] feel at home... that’s important.”  
Current parent

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A warm welcome...

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## From our Head of School

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At International School of Qingdao, we are committed to inspiring learners to make a life-changing difference for the common good.

The 2022-2023 school year will stand out as a memorable year for students and staff. Last year, we overcame numerous challenges and learned the value of persistence and flexibility in light of environmental changes. Staff and parents worked collaboratively to ensure regular and consistent schooling, with creative after-school events to support holistic learning for every child. In the second semester, we eagerly returned to regularly scheduled opportunities and celebrated the renewed involvement of families on campus.

Let us celebrate the achievements of the past year! New equipment has been added to our PE department and the outdoor court has been resurfaced. We have made progress in utilizing Canvas, our learning management system, enabling access to resources for students both in and out of school. Going forward, we will communicate with parents through Canvas, fostering stronger collaboration for increased student success.

To continue this strong partnership with families, I am delighted to announce several changes for the upcoming year. Firstly, our parent company name has changed from LDi / iSC to LifePlus. While you’ll see some visual changes and a LifePlus endorsement on our logo, the heart of who we are as an organization remains unchanged. Additionally, to comply with new government regulations, our Chinese name will change to Qingdao Zhuoyi Children of Foreign Workers School. We remain accredited with Cognia, and our operating name in English remains International School of Qingdao.

Upgrades in lighting throughout the building will brighten spaces up and create a warm and inviting atmosphere. A dedicated space for Yearbook and High School Student Council on the 5th floor has been created, promoting student leadership and engagement. In response to the diverse needs of our students, we are excited to introduce Spanish and French language classes, broadening their language skills and global perspectives.

We were delighted to reintroduce events such as International Day, as well as participate in new events like Read into 2023 and Chinese-focused reading month in March.

We at International School of Qingdao remain dedicated to empowering our students, fostering growth and excellence in an inclusive and supportive learning community. Together, let us challenge the status quo and inspire positive transformation.

With warmest regards,  
**Chris Peek**  
*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.

## 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.

## 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).

## 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.

## 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.

## 2021

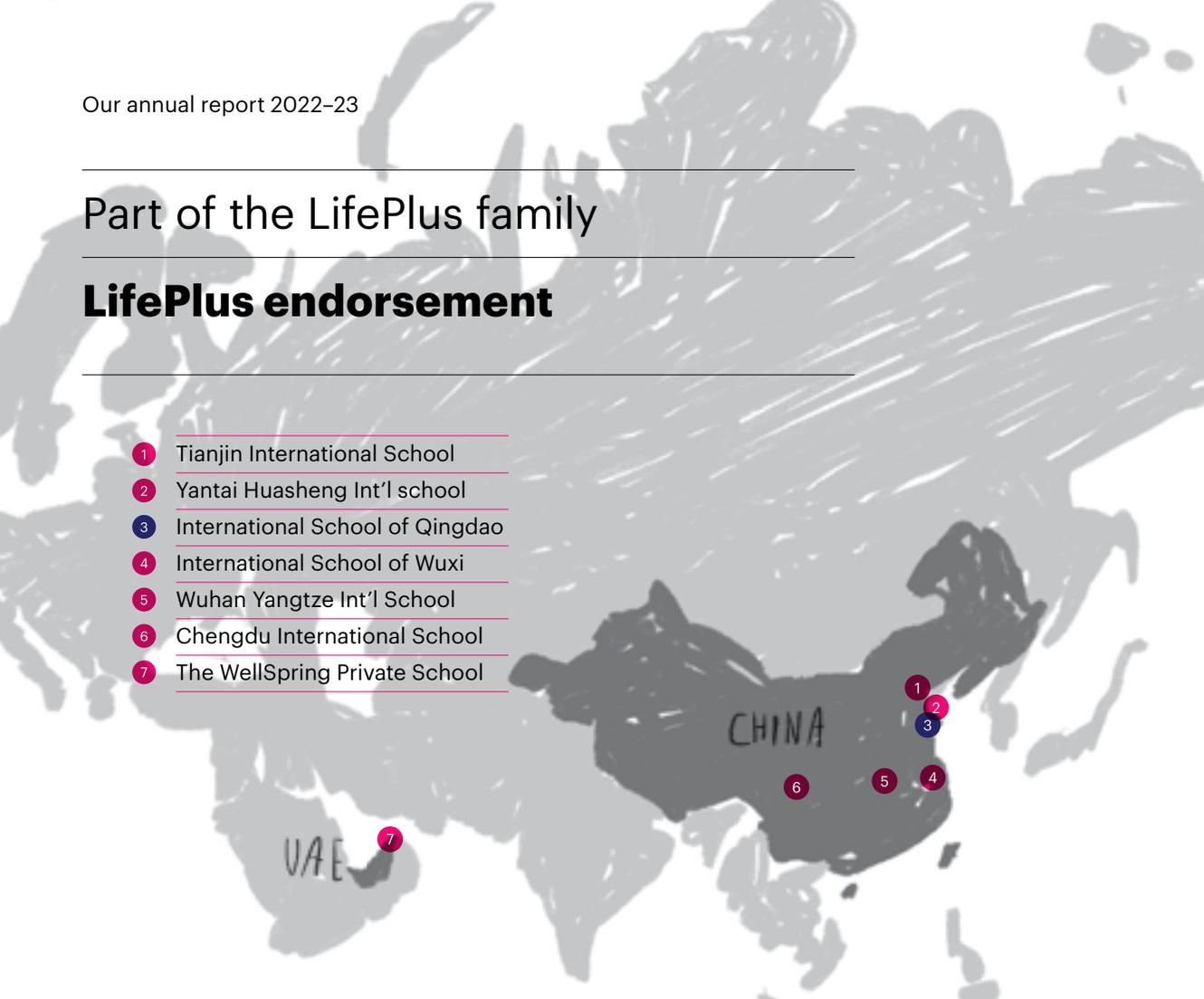
#### Birthday celebrations and new accreditation

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 accreditation bodies: NCA CASI, NWAC and SACS CASI.

## Part of the LifePlus family

### LifePlus endorsement

- 1 Tianjin International School
- 2 Yantai Huasheng Int'l school
- 3 International School of Qingdao
- 4 International School of Wuxi
- 5 Wuhan Yangtze Int'l School
- 6 Chengdu International School
- 7 The WellSpring Private School



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)

#### Cognia

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.

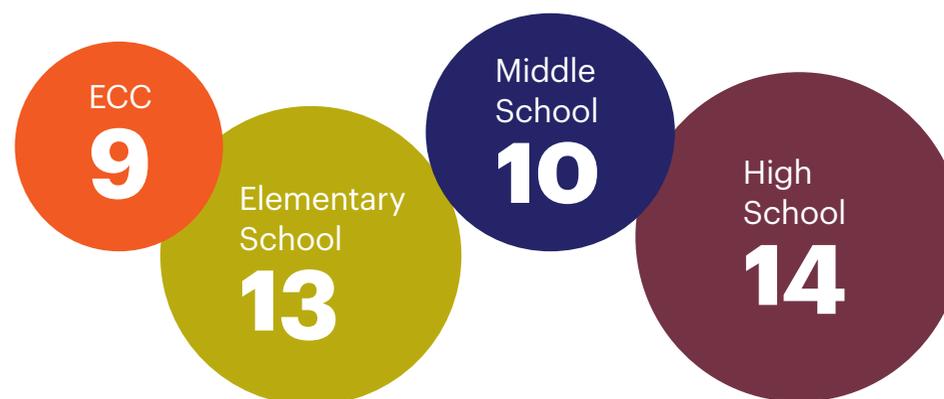


## Who we are

### Demographics



#### Average class sizes



#### Teachers

# 59

#### Years of experience

# 12

#### Post baccalaureate studies

# 51%

#### Teacher:Student

# 1:5

#### Staff nationalities

# 10

Home countries include USA, Canada, UK, Russia, Azerbaijan, Singapore, Philippines, China, South Korea, New Zealand

# What we do and why

## Our values

At International School of 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 and development for all our staff and students. The LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life help guide everything we do. From administrators to kindergartners, we strive to be...

### People who learn

We are *purposeful, curious* and *discerning*.

### People who love

We are *connected, courageous* and *compassionate*.

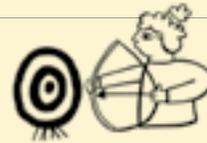
### People who lead

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 and Elementary School highlights

#### Literacy Week, Spell-a-palooza and book swap

We took a whole week to celebrate literacy with ECC and elementary students last year. Daily dress-up themes taken from Eric Carle books inspired creative and sometimes hilarious costumes. The week was rounded out with our second annual Spell-a-palooza, also themed after Eric Carle books. Students not only spelled words, but thought creatively with words and worked cooperatively with teammates. A school-wide book swap took over the lobby for three days, with students at every level exchanging books to get new reading material.

#### Technological literacy

Technological literacy is a growing need for students of every age. Beginning with iPad usage for young students and progressing through typing competency, basic coding and navigating the school learning management system, Canvas, technology is incorporated in every classroom. Students in the elementary school are encouraged to integrate technology into class projects, making presentations, short films and performing research on classroom or personal iPads. Beginning in the fall of 2022, classroom iPad sets were established for Grades 3-5, ensuring a 1:1 iPad to student ratio.



### Middle School highlights

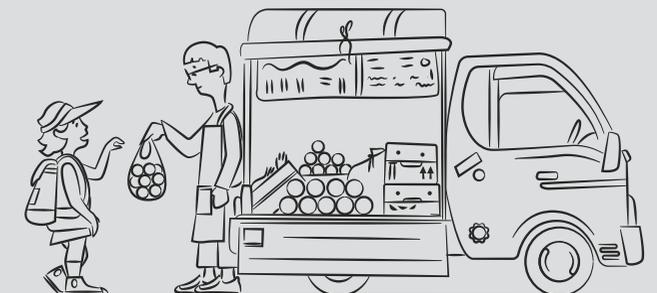
#### Fine Arts program

In the past year, we expanded the middle school Fine Arts program, providing new offerings for students to explore their creativity. The Percussion Ensemble used a number of instruments ranging from colorful boomwhackers and tubanos to bucket drums, glockenspiels, xylophones and various non-pitched percussion instruments. These musicians performed at both Fine Arts Galas, bringing new life and energy to the stage. Additionally, middle school students could choose a photography elective where they learned the fundamentals of photocomposition while exploring various photographic themes through weekly projects.

#### Computer programming

Our middle schoolers also demonstrated their continuous growth by delving into computer programming through Python in the middle school technology classes. By offering coding classes to middle school students, we are helping them to develop critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and collaboration skills.

“When we looked at the schools [in Qingdao], we not only looked at the academics, but all aspects to find the best fit... where [our children] could fully realize their potential.”  
Parent of alum





### High School highlights

Our high school students flourished in their learning journey as they continued to access a wide range of classes with LifePlus Online Academy which expanded the Advanced Placement® course offerings.



### Career Day

High school students also got to participate in a Career Day in the spring. In the morning, students took career interest surveys to help direct their academic and personal preferences towards viable job options. They then spent time researching career options from their surveys and prepared presentations for their classmates. Parents in various professional settings were invited to campus and shared about their work experiences before answering questions and interviewing 11th and 12th Graders. The students found the interview process a little intimidating, but were thankful for the opportunity to engage in such a practical skill. It was wonderful to see parents and students working together!



### Model United Nations

After three years of online conferencing, Model United Nations International School of Qingdao returned to the Shangri-la hotel for an in-person conference. Over 150 participants attended from schools across China. As a result of returning to in-person conferencing, several exciting new developments and opportunities emerged:

- The Debate Club was formed at our school to sharpen and hone debating skills.
- A new partnership has been agreed with Yantai Huasheng International School to work closely with them on their new MUN conferences, starting March 2024.
- In addition to Yantai Huasheng, we will resume regular attendance at TianMUN (MUN Tianjin) in November 2023.



# A year of connection, courage and compassion

## We love



### Parent Teacher Organization

The parent-teacher organization in International School of Qingdao actively works to build our school community. Parents help to organize school-wide events throughout the year. Each event helps to draw us closer to one another, building connection between staff, students and parents. The PTO sponsored five major events last year: International Day, a community Christmas Market, the Spring Celebration, Staff Appreciation Day and an all-school spring picnic. Large numbers of parent volunteers made the programming possible and also gave high school students opportunities to serve the Qingdao community.

In addition to these large-scale events, the PTO organized a number of activities for school parents, including seven cooking classes, three hikes, six DIY workshops, Chinese culture activities and English classes. Parents were deeply involved in supporting the spring drama productions by working backstage, chaperoning students and providing amazing snacks. The PTO's commitment to promote a positive school spirit and nurture a sense of community was abundantly evident over the course of the last year!

**"International School of Qingdao has great teachers who care for the school and the students. They are always there to help."**  
Parent of alum



### Student well-being

Three Qingdao students attended the Yunnan Service Trip this past summer, partnering with Odyssey, the student development office of LifePlus. Focusing specifically on students' social and emotional development, Odyssey also sent representatives to campus, participating in a parent panel discussion about setting age-appropriate boundaries for our children, as well as visiting philosophy and character development classes to talk about how to deal with stress and anxiety.

Odyssey reps worked directly with our well-being staff, examining school practices and making recommendations. They found that our teachers work hard to ensure that student discipline is a restorative process. For instance, secondary students who violate community language rules participate in extra language practice after school. Students who receive detention due to other behavior issues are given time to reflect on their behavior and to serve the school: sharpening pencils, picking up trash, or engaging in other activities to serve others. These practices show students that their teachers and principals care for them and that they can make positive contributions to their school community.

The RULER social-emotional curriculum is utilized to teach students of all ages to identify, manage and communicate their emotions in constructive ways. Staff regularly discuss implementation in their meetings, and signs around the school remind students to use the skills they have learned, such as taking a "Meta Moment" to handle negative emotions well.



# A year of humility, persistence and service

## We lead

### Chinese Corner

Students were given the opportunity to be the teachers last year when Dr. Usher started a Chinese Corner for staff during high school lunch. Three native-Chinese speaking high school students spent the second half of their Thursday lunch time in the café, giving short lessons and practicing conversational Chinese with interested staff members. These students made available their gifts, talents, time, energy and enthusiasm to serve the school community.



### International Day

Together with the PTO and MAC office, our high school International Club helped to host an International Day in October. The highlighted region for the day was Europe, celebrating students and their families from Russia, Hungary, France, the UK, and more. International Club students worked hard all day, running a variety of European lawn games for younger students and classmates alike, helping to support cultural connection in the process. Parents were on campus both before and during the event, first learning how to make French crepes and then teaching students their new skills. Parents and students from Europe volunteered as language tutors, offering sometimes helpful (and sometimes hysterical) phrases to learn. Many elementary students can still be heard saying hello to one another in Russian, "Privet!"



**“Being at International School of Qingdao, one thing I got out of the experience is knowing what my moral values are... It’s not something you get out of a class, it’s through the culture.”**  
Alum

### NHS Activities

Last year our high school National Honor Society focused hard on serving the community. In the spring, they hosted our first annual Global 6K for Water run. The Global 6K is sponsored by World Vision annually as a means to both raise awareness of and funds for those desperately in need of clean water. Thirteen NHS students and fifteen staff members organized the race for the 98 participants who helped to fundraise nearly 25,025 RMB.

The NHS also organized events for students throughout the year. They ran a Big Brain Race for fellow high school students, helping them to engage one another through a little friendly competition. For the second year running, NHS students spent time reading regularly to elementary ELS students in the Page Turners program. Continuing in service, they pioneered a program for middle school students called the 6th Mentoring Project. NHS members met with small groups of Grade 6 students, reviewing content from our social emotional curriculum. Many of the middle school students shared with the NHS members, who spoke with them about building friendships and deep connections.



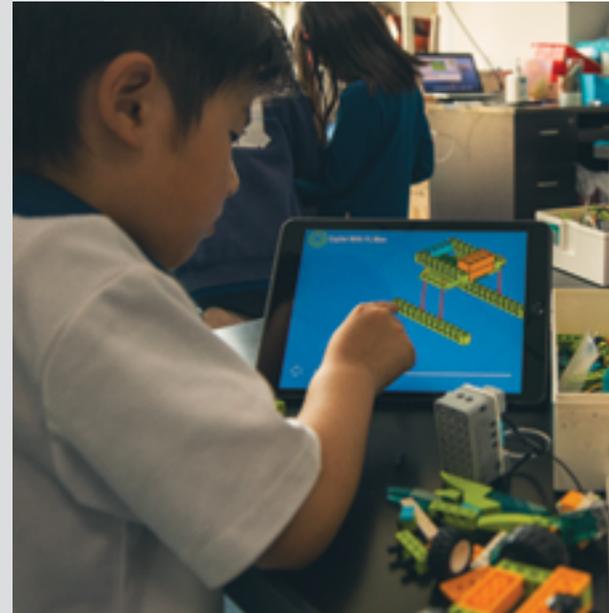


# A year of arts, athletics and activities

## Extra-curricular

### Dads to Lunch

Getting parents involved in campus life is a top priority in our school. Dads are so important to their children and inviting them to campus to participate in ridiculous races, pose for photos and enjoy a meal together will surely be a special memory for everyone. The ECC and Elementary Dads to Lunch event was an annual tradition and will return as a spring-time staple for the foreseeable future. A special Xibei meal prepared by the cafeteria, endless ice cream served by staff volunteers and a visit from the Dolphin mascot made the day unforgettable!



We experienced a remarkable shift from previous years as our students were able to travel once again for sports, field trips, the annual LifePlus Fine Arts Festival, MUNiSQ and spring trips. Our second semester saw elementary and ECC students again taking excursions around the city and participating in on-campus after school activities.

### Activities and Clubs

High school students could participate in one of nine different clubs last year, serving, practicing leadership and expressing creativity. The YMJ (You, Me, Jam) club was a new addition last year, giving students a chance to develop their own band and perform at different events like the PTO Spring Celebration, Chengyang Busking events, HS banquet and the WAVES family picnic. Several clubs helped at PTO events and Serve the City was able to go to Tongxing Special Needs School to spend time with children in addition to donating toys and clothes.

After school activities for elementary were very popular with 176 participants over both semesters. From making tile mosaics with Mrs. Franck to learning Lego coding and participating in Musical Drama, after school activities can offer students opportunities to expand their horizons and follow their passions. The high school Science Club even offered a popular course in hands-on science!



*"If I could describe International School of Qingdao in one word it would be 'fun'."*  
Alum



**Spring Trips**

After taking a break due to Covid restrictions, students were able to travel for spring trips again and it was an amazing experience for all. These trips, which range from daytrips in Qingdao for Grade 6 students up to full-week trips across the country for high school students, provide meaningful opportunities for deep connection between peers and teachers. Spring trips incorporate out of class learning, appreciation for our host culture and service opportunities.

**“There is no definitive algorithm for deciding your future, but the abundance of experience is certainly a huge factor in students’ decisions for their careers. International School of Qingdao offers that experience to all students at all ages alike.”**

Alum



**Athletics**

The Dolphin's One Team philosophy drives athletics in Qingdao: we respect others, we help each other, we act in humility, we have fun and we work hard. Under the guidance of this philosophy, student athletes participate in local and LifePlus tournaments and games. Our sports program provides students with opportunities for personal growth as athletes as well as in team dynamics.

Last year the Dolphins participated in several tournaments, bringing home several sportsmanship awards alongside trophies for first place for men and women in the LifePlus High School Soccer Tournament, second place for men and women in the LifePlus High School Basketball Tournament and first place in mixed doubles ping-pong. In middle school, our athletes traveled to Wuxi for the LifePlus basketball tournament and played in the local QISN soccer tournament.



**Fine Arts**

Last year we saw growing participation in the Fine Arts. Nearly 100 secondary students played instruments, sang in the choir or joined in theater performances throughout the year, with others participating in visual arts by displaying their creation at the annual galas. Twenty-four of our high school students traveled to Tianjin in March to represent Qingdao at the annual LifePlus Fine Arts Festival. This opportunity to collaborate with peers from six different schools was an inspiring experience. A huge accomplishment came in the spring with Peter Pan, a combined middle school, high school and staff production with nearly 60 cast and crew members.





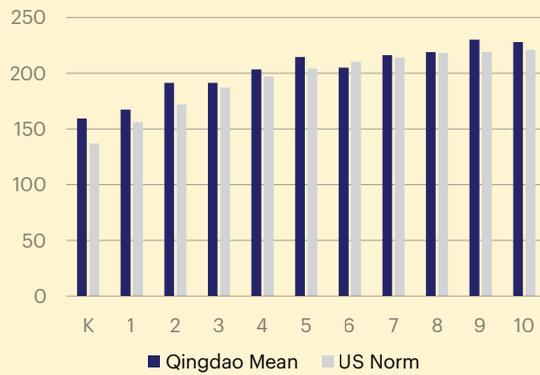
## How we measure up

### Standardized test results

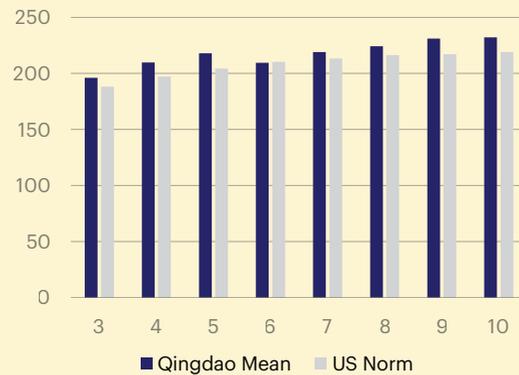
#### Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP)

MAP assessments in Reading and Mathematics are taken by students in Kindergarten through Grade 10. Students in Grades 3-10 are also tested in Language Usage. Lastly, Middle School students are tested in Science.

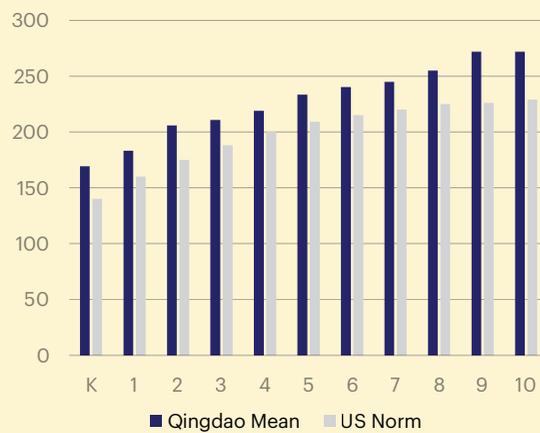
MAP Growth® Average Reading Scores



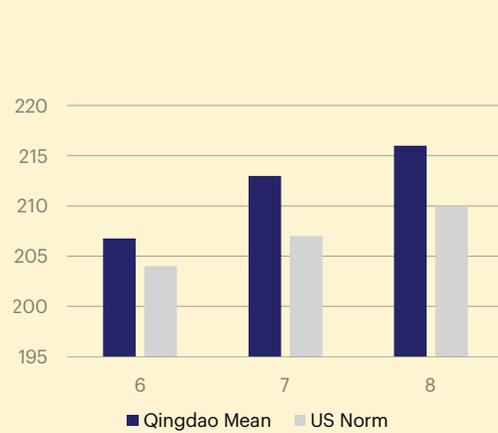
MAP Growth® Average Language Usage Scores



MAP Growth® Average Math Scores



MAP Growth® Average Science Scores



#### Scholastic Aptitude Test® (SAT)

45 exams taken by Grades 11-12 students.

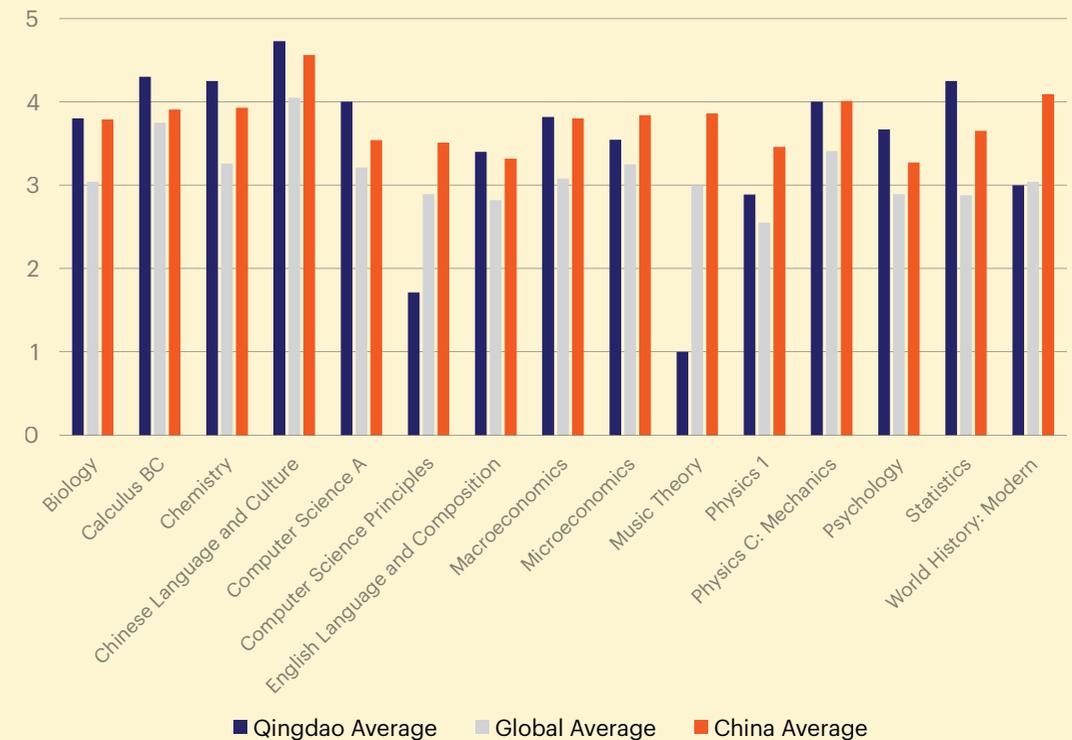


Reading **634**

Math **718**

#### Advanced Placement® (AP)

AP tests measure our high school students' ability to study, demonstrate competency and pass university-level courses. A score of 3 or higher is a pass. Universities around the world also weigh APs in student acceptances, and many of these universities will also give credit to students with AP test scores of 3 or higher.



## Next steps on the learning journey

### University acceptances

Preparing our students to become servant-leaders in their area of calling has been a driving value at the International School of Qingdao since we were founded in 1996. Our purpose-built, North American-style curriculum prepares our students not just for success in the academic arena, but in every area of life. Our graduates in the class of 2023 have been accepted to the universities listed below and are pursuing a wide range of undergraduate studies ranging from business to engineering.

\* indicates students attending

Bentley University

Berea University

Binghamton University

Cairn University\*

Calvin University

City University of Hong Kong

Corvinus University\*

Hanyang

HK Polytechnic

HKUST\*

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis\*

Korea University

Penn State

Saint Louis University

Texas Christian University

Trinity University

University of Iowa

University of Miami

University of Rochester\*

University of Southern Florida

Yonsei

York University\*



## Investing in the common good

### Financial summary, 2022-23

73%



for academics and personnel

All costs associated with learning resources, textbooks, field trips and technology for learning + all staff expenses, professional development and LifePlus Recruiting services

6%



for administration

Costs including all other school technology, equipment and support expenditures

21%



for operations

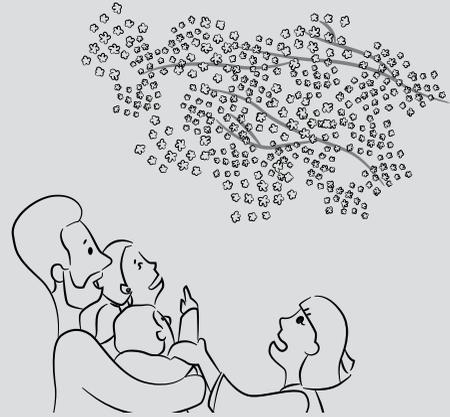
Utilities, lease and maintenance



“International School of Qingdao is a safe place where children can learn and be fully engaged.”  
Former teacher + principal

## How we intend to grow

### Our goals for 2023-24



#### Celebrate

As educators, we celebrate the achievements of our students on their journey towards attending university, knowing that they are prepared and equipped with the necessary skills to excel in their chosen fields. Our commitment to empowering our students extends beyond academic success, providing them with opportunities to emerge as leaders. From leading school and community events to spearheading initiatives that foster positive change, our students have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills.



**“What excites me about my son learning here is the fact that he’s known, loved and will be motivated to do his best and discover new interests every day.”**  
Current parent



#### Goals for 2023-24

As we reflect on our accomplishments, we also acknowledge the need for continuous improvement. This year, we strive towards improving our use of technology, with a focus on maximizing the potential of Canvas and Teams to create an effective learning and collaboration platform for both students and staff. With the popular advent of AI in various fields, we will explore best practices for governance and utilization of AI in the classroom for both students and teachers. Furthermore, we are delighted to announce that our cafeteria now has a baker, further broadening the offerings of our lunch program.



In another significant move towards improved communication, we have implemented the Parent Portal in Canvas, enabling parents and their children to receive messages together. This feature is especially important in older grades where parents and students both benefit from regular communication. At the International School of Qingdao, we remain committed to creating a nurturing community that inspires transformation and fosters growth.

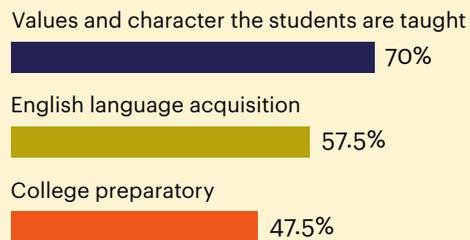
## Survey results

### What our community says

Annually, LifePlus surveys parents, students, teachers and support staff to understand these stakeholders' valuable opinions. Overall, the survey last year revealed why parents initially placed their child at the International School of Qingdao as well as student thoughts on classroom environment and school culture. Our administration team uses these data points to promote greater opportunities for learning and student well-being.

#### 2023 Parents survey results

When parents were asked in 2023 to select all the reasons "Why do you keep your child at our school?", the top 3 choices were:



Parents were asked a series of questions relating to academics, parent engagement, student support and school operations.

- **95%** of parents feel that their child knows the expectations for learning in all classes.
- **94%** believe that our school shares the responsibility for student learning with the entire staff and
- **87%** believe that our school has high expectations for students.

Listening to parent feedback helps us to see areas that can improve as well.

- Only **65%** of parents surveyed said that our teachers use a variety of teaching strategies and learning activities and

- only **64%** of parents feel that our school provides opportunities for stakeholders to be involved in the school.

#### Parent quotes:

"The teachers high quality and rigor. The staff members openness to conversations and ideas."

"We can feel that teachers appreciate our children and develop them with great sense of responsibility. Children are loved and cared as teacher's own children."

"The teachers and administrators deeply care for the students and desire to improve their wellbeing. They are also skilled educators."

"I like the culture of respect and care promoted by the school the most. I also appreciate the opportunities the school provides for students to study abroad and participate in various activities."

"I like how the school stimulates children's imagination and respect their development and guidance."

#### 2023 Middle school student survey results

- **58%** of middle school students say that they are happy while at school.
- **63%** of middle school students think their teachers are fun.
- **62%** think of their teachers as active.

When considering their school work:

- **58%** of middle school students feel their time is usually enough to complete assignments.
- **54%** feeling calm about their workload.

Middle school students report hearing "You got it right!" from their teachers, along with feeling like their teachers are interested in their answers or approach to learning.

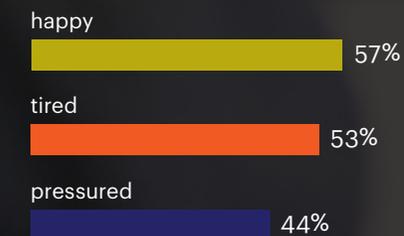
#### 2023 High school student survey results

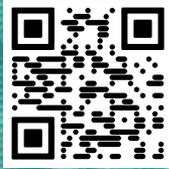
- **74%** of high school students responded that they feel they are expected to be learning and understanding content at school.
- **51%** of high schoolers describe their teachers as caring.
- **47%** of high schoolers say their teachers are caring, active and fun.

When describing their experiences in their classes:

- **51%** of high schoolers say they have positive experiences interacting with others.

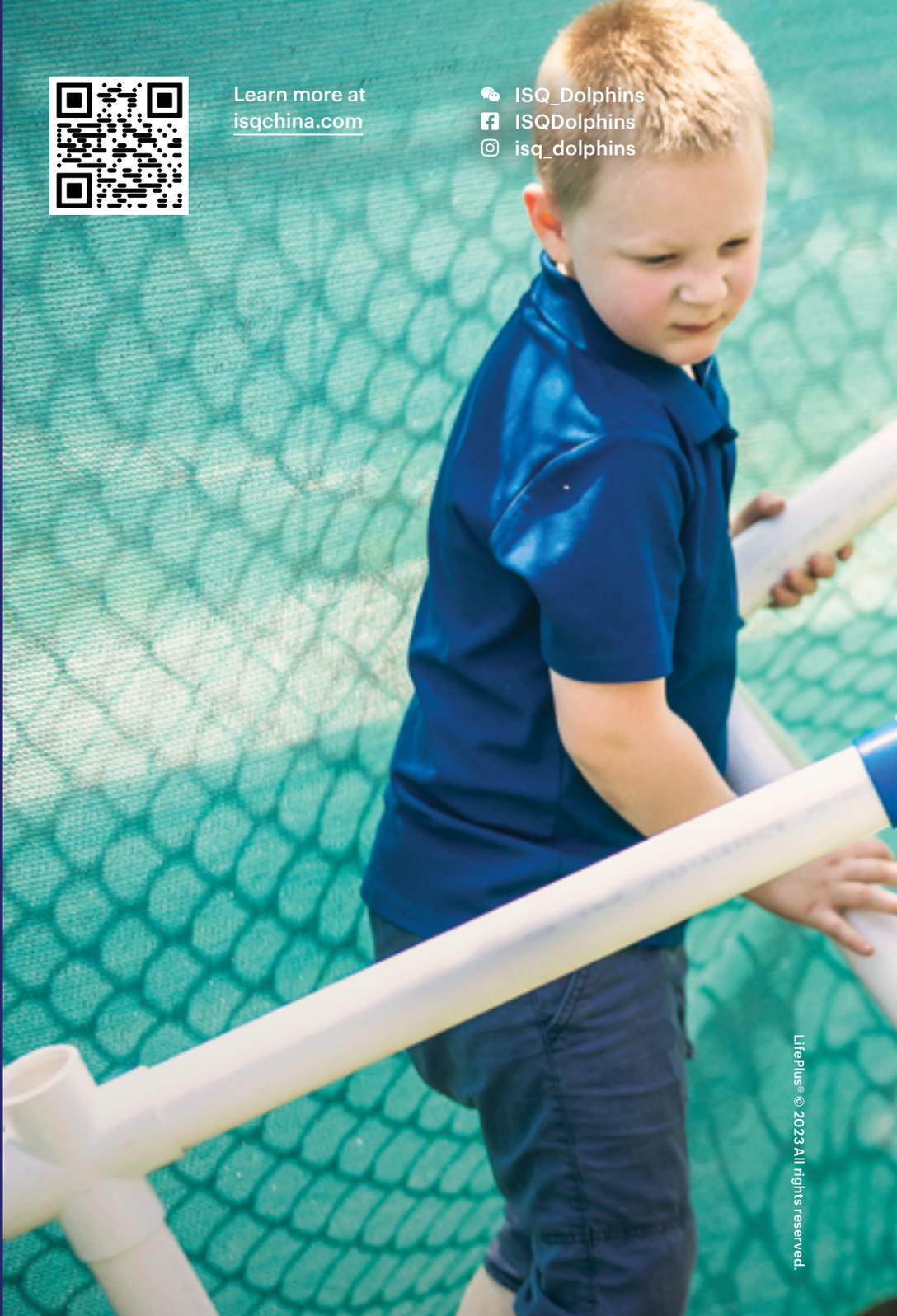
Reflecting on their overall feeling at school, high school students responded that they feel:





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

ISQ\_Dolphins  
ISQDolphins  
isq\_dolphins



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