

LS DRAGON BULLETIN

SCIS Mission: To develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring learners who contribute positively to their communities.

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Important Dates

Return to Campus:
June 2: G 1-3

Summer Program Begins: June 15

Important Contacts

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School Calendar [School Calendar](#)



Classmates who aren't able to join on-campus learning participate via Teams and their on-campus "buddies!" Students are having a great time keeping everyone included in our learning.

I have been in education for 25 years now and have never seen a year like this one. One of the greatest surprises has been watching the Grade 4/5 students this week working with their peers who are outside China. They have embraced their classmates and supported them via Teams. We are seeing the future of education come to us much faster by way of the COVID situation. What amazing and resilient kids we have. It has been a good week.

Return to Campus Updates for G1, G2 & G3:

We are excited to welcome our G1-3 students back to campus on Tuesday, June 2! Our community's health and safety is our top priority in our return to campus preparations. Kindly note that there are several requirements and processes G1-3 families will need to prepare for in order to be eligible to return to campus learning on June 2. We kindly ask all grade 1-3 families to read the Hongqiao News emails for details. Furthermore, families of G4 and G5 students who still plan to return follow the same return to campus protocols. Additionally, our [Return to Hongqiao Campus](#) website for parents and students is a one-stop resource for more Return to Hongqiao-Main Campus information.

More Scenes from SCIS LS's Blended Learning World:



Now back on campus, our G4 and G5 homerooms are engaged in blended learning with their classmates who are both learning from on and off campus! On Thursday, Grade 4 classes hosted Ms. Jamie, the founder of UnTour Food Tours, on Teams. She was a most valuable source of information as students inquired into entrepreneurs for part of their How We Organize Ourselves unit. Students were ready with questions and learned about many ways a product or service can be marketed.

SCIS Family Feature: The Harline Family

Our family's online learning has had many ups and downs, as I'm sure many other families can relate with. We were on vacation in Laos when the Covid-19 restrictions began to clamp down in Shanghai. We decided to wait things out in Singapore rather than return to Shanghai, so we had very little with us as we began online learning from our hotel in Singapore. Andrew had an office in Singapore and I was able to stay with the kids full time.



The Harline Family: Andrew, McCaye, Josslyn (Preschool), Sawyer (G2), Samantha (G2), Andrew



We had left all computers and devices back in Shanghai, our first hurdle was figuring out how to give each of our four children access to their work and teachers without taking up the entire day rotating on one or two devices. It took all of one day of frustration for us to head for the Apple Store to buy all of the children a new iPad and keyboard. We also needed to find each child enough of their own space to be able to focus, think, and record their assignments without interruption. This also proved to be a challenge out of a hotel. But by trial and error, eventually, things began to smooth out and were able to find a balance in time spent on their homework, time spent outside exercising, time relaxing and resting, and time spent simply together.

The support that our kids needed for their homework was almost constant. This took an emotional toll on me as well as on the children. I learned more about my children's strength and resilience in those weeks than ever before and so appreciated their positive attitudes in a difficult situation. We eventually moved into an apartment in Singapore where we had more space and more facilities for the kids. After another month in Singapore, the kids and I traveled to the United States. Andrew stayed in Singapore for a short time and then returned to

Shanghai. It's never easy to be separated, especially when there is no definite end in sight to the separation, but patience, the schoolwork/ family life balance continued and the school days began to move along more quickly and smoothly. As I'm sure many other families agree, the online learning was doable, but not ideal, and certainly not something we wanted to continue long term.

Something that helped us most was to carefully pick and choose a few things that were maybe just too much at the time. It worked well for our family to begin schoolwork first thing in the morning. If additional assignments trickled in during the afternoon or evening we simply put them off until the following day, allowing those times to be relaxed family time. When we weren't working on assignments we were rarely in the house, but instead out in the fresh air exploring new places. I'll always be grateful that we were able to do this as I know many families weren't. I remember a few times emailing teachers to ask for more time on an assignment. And on a few occasions the kids and I would put down the schoolwork and head off on a day trip to clear our heads. I heard myself telling the kids many times that "if you truly do your best, then it will be enough," and I really believe it.

Our family has definitely been able to grow closer during online learning with more time spent together. I think my children have learned to be more independent and more patient with themselves and others. I'm sure we have all gleaned something from the frustrations of the past few months, if not only gratitude for a positive, on-campus learning environment that we have in SCIS. While we aren't able to return yet to Shanghai, we definitely look forward to the time that our kids can happily join their friends and teachers on campus and continue their education at SCIS.

If you'd like your family to be featured, let us know! Email LS Vice Principal, Ms. O'Brien, at kobrien@scis-china.org

Counselor's Message: Jen Peters

The return to campus for all grades in the lower school is exciting news for the many that are able to come back to school. Over the course of the next week is the perfect opportunity to get back into the routine of school. Some routines to think about are:

- Schedule a school wake up and bedtime.
- Check to make sure uniforms still fit
- Practice a regular school day routine; breakfast and lunch around school times, continue seesaw work during the school day.
- Reassess after school hours use of device and technology time.
- Prepare school bags with what will be needed for their return
- Have conversations about how your child feels with the return, discuss the small changes that have been made at school (face masks, health papers, physical distance, cafeteria appearance, etc.) Watch the videos from SCIS
- Review hygiene and hand washing protocols
- Reassure your child that these changes are not scary just different, and it will take a little time to adjust to the new protocols.
- Let them know that we are excited and happy to have them return to campus and we cannot wait to see them!

Unfortunately, not everyone will be able to join us back on campus. The return to campus can bring up several emotions for those students and families such as sadness, disappointment, and sense of being left out. These feelings are normal. As a family, take the time to have conversations with your child about the situation. Some helpful hints are:

- Listen to your child and validate their feelings. Letting them know, feeling this way is normal. It is okay to feel (emotion). Ask them, how can I help? What do you need?
- Don't try to fix or sugarcoat the situation. It is the current reality, so help them find ways to deal and cope with the disappointment.
- Focus on the positive not what is going wrong or bad. Once again, acknowledge their feelings, yet help them find some good in the situation or ways to deal with the negative emotions when they arise.

The following article, How to Help Your Child Handle Disappointment, from Child Mind Institute is an excellent reference. I would encourage everyone to take a look at the information.

https://childmind.org/article/how-to-help-your-kids-handle-disappointment/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=helping%20children%20build%20healthy%20resilience%20to%20setbacks&utm_campaign=Weekly-05-12-20

Once again, your child is encountering more change in their life, so please feel free to reach out if you need resources or a place to talk. I am always available to support you and your child.

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