

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 Dates:

May 6: G12 & G10

May 11: G9 & G11

May 18: G4-8

TBD: All other grades

Important Contacts

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HQ-Main teachers began working from our campus again on Monday, May 4. We can't wait to welcome our G4-G12 students back soon!

Return to Campus Updates for G4 and G5:

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 G4 and G5 families will need to prepare for in order to be eligible to return to campus learning on May 18. Please refer to the Hongqiao News email you received today for details. Additionally, our [Return to Hongqiao Campus](#) website for parents and students is a one-stop resource for more Return to Hongqiao information.

Blended Learning for G4 & G5 Students

SCIS Grade 4 and 5 teachers will continue to provide a Virtual Learning experience via the use of the online learning platform Seesaw for students who are unable to return to Shanghai or to campus. Teachers are working hard planning ways to ensure all students, both in person and online receive the best learning experiences available. Efforts will be made to ensure that students working online maintain a personal connection to the classroom, the teacher, and their peers.

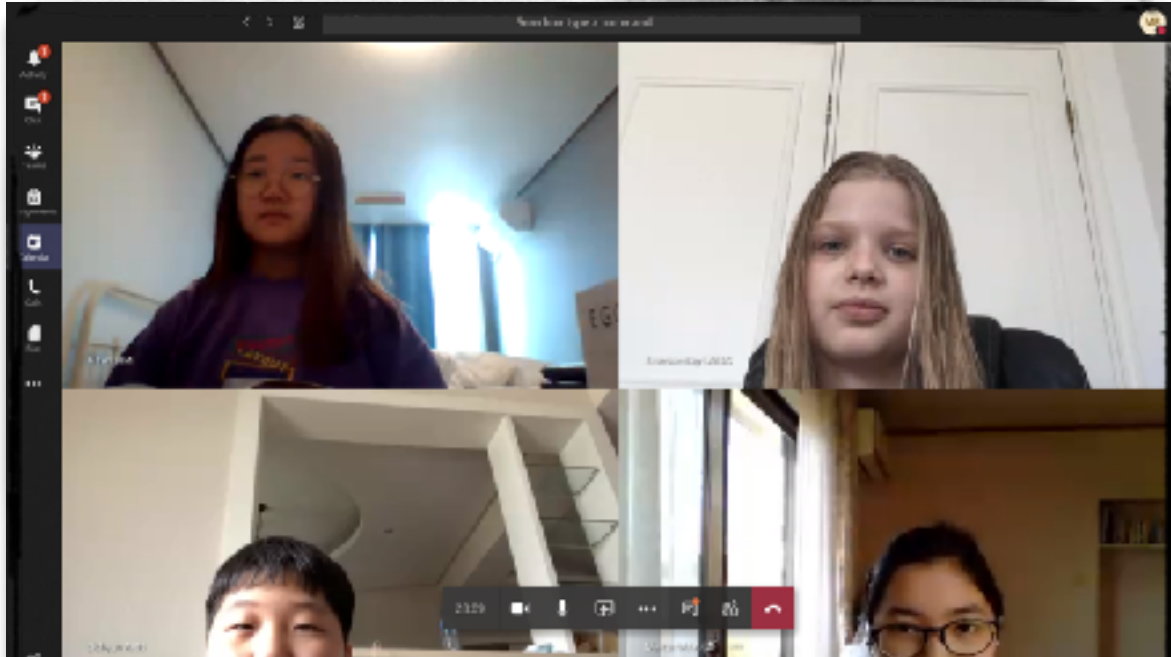
Expectations for Virtual Learners During Blended Learning:

1. Availability: Daily Schedule:

- Classroom teachers will provide learning experiences for key parts of the school day (Literacy, Mathematics, Unit of Inquiry) as determined by their daily class schedule.
- Teachers will support students (and parents) virtually when their schedule permits.
- Students that are in attendance on campus will take priority, for safety reasons, during the period of blended learning.
- Once a student has completed and posted an assignment, teachers will do their best to provide feedback within 48 hours.

2. Curricular Continuity and Learning Assignments:

- Virtual learning assignments will include core-subject content covered by students who are physically present in the classroom.
- Teachers will use Microsoft Teams to provide some opportunities for Virtual Learners to connect with the class in real time if possible.
- Specialist Teachers (Mandarin, Art, PE and Music) will continue to provide weekly learning experiences.



The PYP Exhibition, SCIS's cumulating PYP project, got its start virtually this year with the Grade 5 team! Every year, the projects inspire the entire community, and this year will certainly be no exception!

SCIS LS's Virtual Learning World: Grade 5's PYP Exhibition Project

The PYP Exhibition is a time for Grade 5 students to demonstrate their understanding of an issue or opportunity they choose to explore. This year our Grade 5 students have undertaken their investigations individually, with the guidance of their teachers. Over the past few weeks, our students have chosen topics that they are passionate about and are currently working hard to research some of the many questions they have generated about their topic. Students have also chosen some NGO's linked to their topics to research and possibly inspire some action.

Here are just a few of the topics some of our students are inquiring into:

- Plastic pollution
- Climate Change
- Deforestation
- Endangered Animals
- Gender Equality
- Cyber Safety

All Grade 5 students will be presenting their Exhibition, some will present online and some in person to their classmates at school. This is a huge task for our students and we are proud of the work they have already done. Through this Exhibition process, our students will demonstrate their ability to take responsibility for their learning—and their capacity to take action—as they will be actively engaged in planning, presenting and assessing learning. It also provides an opportunity for our students to exhibit the learner profile attributes that have been developing throughout their engagement with the PYP.

SCIS Family Feature: Sophie (G8) and Julie (G2) Family's Virtual Experience, by mom, Yvonne Yeung

Sophie (G8) and Julie's (G2) experiences in coping with COVID-19 impacts can be best described as euphoric, surreal, and a roller coaster of emotions. When we started our CNY holiday visiting family and friends in Hong Kong, the virus infections were starting to gain attention globally. At that time, the impacts were still limited to China and very few people were wearing masks as a way of prevention. So when we left for Tokyo as part of our vacation, never would we have imagine a weeklong trip would become a month long experience our family would never forget.

When the escalation of infections leading to the lockdown of the entire city of Wuhan, we quickly realized the severity of this crisis was unprecedented with implications beyond what we can ever imagine. Like most children, our girls were excited about an extension to their holiday in a country full of tourist attractions. But as the situation worsen, we also noticed a prolong vacation quickly altered with mixed emotions, requiring changes to our schedule when virtual learning started. The beginning was challenging with occasional tech challenges together with the necessary discipline to stay focus in meeting deadlines, very much like the real world scenario my husband had to endure for his work as well. As their first time experiencing working online to complete assignments (especially for the little one), we quickly realized the importance of time management in balancing time spent on researching different topics, avoiding prolonged screen time, while allocating breaks to help



The Fung Family: Sophie (G8), Julie (G2) with mom, Yvonne and dad, Johnny

spend some of their energy. It was equally exhausting as parents to manage our personal needs while filling in as interim teachers.

But as time has gone by, we have witnessed the agility demonstrated by the school administration with the teachers' proactive communication to identifying difficulties, and adjusting assignments for students to complete with greater ease. It's obvious our girls really miss interaction with friends and beloved teachers, but thanks to technology, they are compensating with group chats. Even swim coaches have setup weekly land exercises plans to help

swimmers keep in shape. Specifically for Julie, she loved watching Ms. Smith's morning videos to start her day and completed her daily assignment with greater enthusiasm. As parents becoming more involved with their assignments, we benefitted from the stronger bond while appreciating the school's IB programs which reflects the practical and realistic needs in the real world. As a result, we definitely enjoyed more quality time together as a family in adopting to the new normal. With the crisis escalating to other countries, we quickly realize such a pandemic could easily impact the common needs we all take for granted at times. The appreciation for the solidarity in helping those in need will forever influence our behaviors with a greater sense of what's really important in life. We're thrilled to see the school's preparation to support students returning to campus. With our lives begin to enjoy normalcy, we can safely say we are grown in maturity in the process.

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

As students return to campus, there is a sense of excitement as well as a variety of mixed emotions for students and parents. As we prepare for grades 4 and 5 to return to SCIS, our focus is on the safety and emotional well-being of the student. We are working on creating a safe and caring atmosphere that emphasizes helping students heal and rebuild their school community after such an overwhelming experience. Opportunities will be given for students to express and share their experiences, feelings, and general thoughts about this difficult time in the world. Through the healing process, it allows time for students to restore bonds with classmates (near and far), teachers, and others throughout the world who are currently experiencing similar situations in a more understanding, empathic and compassionate way. We will focus on healing as a whole community which includes students, family, and staff who are outside of Shanghai or unable to return to campus. We have all been through a difficult time with similar experiences and now it is time to begin the healing process together. When individuals feel safe and secure with their emotional needs this paves the way for academic learning to take over.

“Together may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly.” –Unknown
Author