

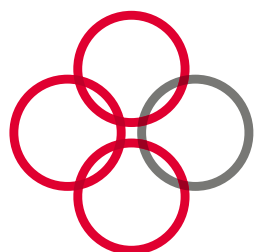


**Bienvenue
Willkommen**

Welcome
to
Swiss
International
Scientific
School

**INDUCTION
INFORMATION**

Academic Year 2023 - 24



SWISS
INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL
— D U B A I —

Message from the Principal and the Deputy Head of School

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome, Bienvenue, Willkommen, Marhaba

Firstly, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family as you join our vibrant and cosmopolitan community here at Swiss International Scientific School Dubai. We are delighted that you have chosen SISD for the education of your child(ren), and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

As you may be aware, we are one of only a few IB Continuum schools in the world, and the IB permeates every aspect of what we do in terms of our approaches to learning, educational philosophies, and our mission to nurture every child as a 21st century global and responsible citizen. We also pride ourselves in ensuring the values of the IB, and the principles of the IB Learner Profile are inherent in everyday school life.

Our educational approach to languages is unique here at SISD – our bilingual and language acquisition programmes are innovative and certainly one of a kind in the UAE. Two teachers in Early Years and Primary bilingual classrooms, providing instruction in two languages within expert co-teaching systems, nurturing the building of close relationships enables superb tenets of instruction in Early Years and Primary classes. Immersing students in bilingual settings is the most enjoyable way to learn and maintain languages, and we hope that you and your children enjoy it! Our STEAM classes also benefit from a comprehensive language acquisition programme.

With high expectations for our students, SISD offers well-rounded and holistic provision ensuring learners are happy, fulfilled and challenged at school. Our students have opportunities to take part in a range of different activities including wide array of enrichment and after-school clubs. Our four Houses of Bern, Geneva, Lugano and Zurich and the wealth of opportunities in our vibrant house system nurture healthy competition across all areas of school life.

The SISD staff team is unique; native English, French, German and Arabic speaking teachers who are highly dedicated and who work tirelessly to support the progress and development of every student. Their work is supported by an excellent administrative team, world-class facilities and outstanding curriculum resources.

At SISD, we pride ourselves in providing a warm and caring environment for our students and developing well-rounded young people; our students are changemakers, contributing widely to school and local enterprise, entrepreneurship and sustainability; leaders of tomorrow and global citizens of the future.

We are privileged to welcome your family to our community and we are all looking forward to working alongside you and your child(ren) as they embark on their educational journey with us.

We will see you very soon.

Kind regards,



Ruth Burke, Principal of SISD



Rania Hussein, Deputy Head of School

Our induction day for new starters will take place on **Monday, 28th August 2023**. This is the opportunity for students and parents to visit the school, see the facilities and to meet class teachers and senior leaders.

Parents are invited to stay for a coffee and refreshments in the sports hall and to meet our school partners on the day.

A plan for the induction session is below. Timings are different by section – please see below for details.

1. Early Years (Pre-KG to KG2) :

Parents have the opportunity to book a 15 mins slot to visit the classroom and to meet the teacher. Timing between 9am – 12pm and 1pm - 2pm. Details of the booking links are included in this email.

Please arrive at the main Early Years and Primary reception at your allocated time. Please note that students in Pre-KG + KG1 will be on staggered timings for the first week, and your child's group and respective timing is included in this email.

2. Primary (Grade 1 to Grade 5) :

For Primary students, we will be splitting the induction into two sessions of 45 minutes each. This will be an opportunity for your child to see their classroom, the facilities and to meet their teacher and Grade Coordinator.

Please arrive at the main Primary reception at your allotted time (below):

Primary (Grades 1 + 2) : 1 pm – 1:45 pm

Primary (Grades 3, 4 and 5) : 2 pm – 2:45 pm

3. Secondary (Grade 6 to Grade 11) :

Please arrive at the main Secondary Atrium at 1:30 pm. Students will visit their classrooms, tour the facilities, and meet their Grade Coordinators. Please ensure students bring their laptops and wear the school uniform. The session will end at 3:30pm

Parent Information Sessions for Secondary parents will be held in the auditorium at 1:45 pm and repeated at 2:45 pm. These sessions will provide an induction to Secondary, the IB at SISD and the reporting systems used by the school.

4. We will also have our school providers on site to share more information about their services:

- Maverick Transport – Bus Company
- Zaks Uniform – School Uniform
- Swiss Canonica – Catering
- SISD Parents' Association
- Stryx for after school activities
- Pomegranate for Language Courses for Mother Tongue tuition in school
- Centre for Musical Arts - Instrumental Lessons

Early Years and Primary (Phases 1 and 2)



Shona Gastaldi
Head of Early Years and Primary



Samantha Hodges
Deputy Head of Primary



Lisa Thorpe
Deputy Head of Primary



Fiona Ryan
Deputy Head of Early Years (KG1 + 2)



Hannah Hepworth
Deputy Head of Early Years (Pre-KG)



Aisling O Connor
Head of Inclusion



Leanda Kelly
Assistant Head of Early Years (Teaching and Learning)



Niall Crowley
Lower Primary Assistant Head (Grades 1 and 2)



Gullrukh Rafiq
Upper Primary Assistant Head (Grades 3- 5)

Secondary (Phases 3 and 4)



Megan La Caze
Head of Secondary



Angela Arnold
Deputy Head of Secondary (Academic)



Brian Cleary
Deputy Head of Secondary (Pastoral)



Vibha Masand
IBDP Coordinator



Lisa Bardin
IBCP Coordinator



Anthony Loxston-Baker
IB MYP Coordinator

Administrative Support



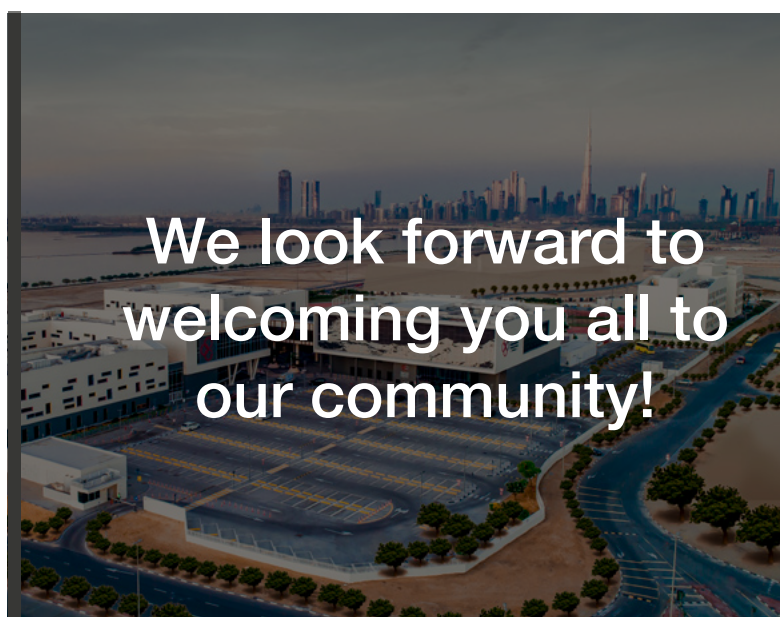
Ivorie Padua
Early Years Secretary



Jennifer de la Cruz
Primary Secretary



Lizelle Aplood
Secondary School Secretary



School Uniform:

Our school uniform is available from Zaks; the store is in Oasis Mall, Sheikh Zayed Road. Orders can also be placed online at [ZAKS](#). Our uniform list is available to view online [here](#)

School Bus Transport:

The school buses are operated by Maverick Transport. They can be contacted on:

Email: transportsisd@maverickrental.com

Telephone: 052 911 8831 / 04 375 0624

More information is available [here](#)

School Lunches:

Lunches are provided by Swiss Canonica. The team can be contacted on inquiry@swisscanonica.ae

More information is available on [our website](#) and at [Swiss Canonica](#)

After School Activities:

Please note that the after-school activities program for Semester 1 will be sent out mid-August, and registration will open after this date.

At SISD, we offer a large number of after-school clubs and activities. Some are internally run, and some are run by our sports partner, Stryx. The calendar of After School Activities is available to view on our website [here](#).

External:

Stryx can be contacted on jhag@stryxsports.com and asa@sisd.ae.

Internal:

Please see the website www.sisd.ae/after-school-activities for more information regarding our internal activities.

Pomegranate Institute:

Pomegranate Institute will be providing mother tongue language lessons to students after school and during the school day.
www.pomegranateinstitute.com

Centre for Musical Arts:

Private individual music lessons are available through CMA.
<https://www.cmadubai.com>

All the above teams will be able to provide more information on our Induction Day on Monday, 28th August 2023.



Parents' Association:

We have a very active Parents' Association – who organize social events, theme days and activities at the school. They also operate a used school uniform shop. More information is available [here](#).

Additional information:

1. Security Badges

To ensure a safe environment for our school community all parents, students and others authorized to collect students are required to have an official SISD photo identification card.

- Please complete and submit the [Security Badge Form](#) well before the start of the new school year to ensure that your SISD ID cards are ready for collection before the first day of school to avoid long queues.
- Please follow the [Guidelines](#) here.
- NOTE: For parents with older siblings already at SISD, please re-submit the [Security Badge Form](#) as we will issue new parent badges mentioning all children at SISD.
- If you have not yet submitted a photo of your child, please send an individual portrait photo (JPEG format) clearly showing your child's face to security@sisd.ae
- We will endeavour to process your ID cards in time for the induction day.

2. School Calendar – Academic Year 2023/24

The school calendar is available to view online [here](#).

Communication:

1. Parent Communication:

Primary and Secondary each issue a fortnightly parent bulletin, containing the latest school news and events, and information from the Leadership team.

On alternate weeks, a letter from the Principal is sent with updates on the latest activities and events.

Social Media

The school has a number of social media channels – please do follow them to stay up to date on the latest school news and activities:

Facebook – www.facebook.com/mysisd

Instagram – <http://www.instagram.com/sisdubai> and www.instagram.com/sisd sport

LinkedIn – <https://www.linkedin.com/company/swiss-international-scientific-school-of-dubai>



Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

For students in Grade 3-5:

As part of our digital literacy programme, our Grade 3-5 students are requested to bring their own devices to school each day for classroom use only. The devices are used for educational purposes, and students will use relevant apps to support and enhance their learning. Research shows that students who use iPads in school tend to develop better critical thinking skills, higher-order reasoning skills, increased creativity, improved writing abilities, stronger communication skills, enhanced collaboration skills, a greater focus on tasks at hand, and improved organizational skills. To support learning and online safety at school, students will be able to use their devices during school hours with access to school-approved applications only, and at home, their devices will provide access to their full range of apps. We do ask that all the iPads are protected with a suitable case.

Online Shop:

We have partnered with JTRS, a local supplier, who can assist parents with purchasing and enrolling devices for our BYOD. They currently have stock available, however, it is recommended that you order your device before the end of August. They are able to deliver your purchased device and accessories to your home within 48 hours of your purchase. They will also have a trade-in option where parents can trade in their old devices for cash which can be used to upgrade to a newer device. Their online shop is here JTRS Computer Trading & Repairing LLC (https://www.jtrs.ae/sign_up/), and one of the advantages of using JTRS is that they will deliver a device with our MDM system integrated, without the need to take any other steps.

JTRS Instashop – Monday 28th August

JTRS will be present at school on the 28th of August 2023 at our Induction event, should you wish to find out about purchasing a device and how JTRS can support. The iPad Instashop is an exclusive opportunity for parents to explore and purchase iPads for their children at special prices.

In September, JTRS will also have a pop-up shop in our school reception where parents can trade in their old devices for cash and purchase newer devices.

If you do already have an existing device from iPad Generation 9, we will be collecting that device in the second week of September to install all applications that the children will require for teaching and learning.

Devices:

For students in Grade 6 and above, a laptop is essential.

Guideline Laptop Specifications

The following chart will help you in selecting and purchasing a laptop for your child to use. While there are many options, there are minimum specifications required in order to effectively support your child's learning. **Please note Chromebooks or Linux machines are not recommended.**

Recommended Specifications - BYOD

Specs.	Windows PC Laptop (HP, Lenovo, Dell, Asus, Acer)	Apple MacBook Pro	Apple MacBook Air
Processor	Intel Core™ i5 (latest gen) or better	M1 or Intel	M1 or Intel
Operating System	Windows 64 - 11/10 bit		
Memory	Minimum 8GB RAM	Minimum 8GB RAM	Minimum 8GB RAM
Hard Drive	Minimum 256 GB SSD	Minimum 256 GB	Minimum 256 GB
Screen Size	15 - 13 inch	13 inch or higher	13 inch or higher
Wi-Fi	Yes	Yes	Yes

General School Reception

Telephone: 04 375 0600

Email: info@sisd.ae

Early Years (Phase 1):

Shona Gastaldi	Head of Phases 1 and 2
Lisa Thorpe	Deputy Head of Phases 1 and 2
Fiona Ryan	Deputy Head of Early Years (KG1 + 2)
Hannah Hepworth	Deputy Head of Early Years (Pre-KG)
Leanda Kelly	Assistant Head Learning and Teaching
Jasmine Runge	Early Years & Primary School Counsellor
Ivorie De Padua	Secretary for Early Years

Shona.Tait@sisd.ae
Lisa.Thorpe@sisd.ae
Fiona.Ryan@sisd.ae
Hannah.Hepworth@sisd.ae
Leanda.Kelly@sisd.ae
Jasmine.Runge@sisd.ae
Ivorie.Padua@sisd.ae

Primary (Phase 2):

Shona Gastaldi	Head of Phases 1 and 2
Lisa Thorpe	Deputy Head of Phases 1 and 2
Samantha Hodges	Deputy Head of Primary
Gullrukh Rafiq	Upper Primary Assistant Head
Niall Crowley	Lower Primary Assistant Head
Jennifer De La Cruz	Secretary for Primary
Jasmine Runge	Early Years & Primary School Counsellor
Grade 1 Coordinator	Tamara Grannell
Grade 2 Coordinator	Stephanie Dehghani
Grade 3 Coordinator	Audrey Galvin
Grade 4 Coordinator	Luzanne Bodenstein
Grade 5 Coordinator	Grace Lynch

Shona.Tait@sisd.ae
Lisa.Thorpe@sisd.ae
Samantha.Hodges@sisd.ae
Gullrukh.Rafiq@sisd.ae
Niall.Crowley@sisd.ae
Jennifer.DelaCruz@sisd.ae
Jasmine.Runge@sisd.ae
Tamara.Grannell@sisd.ae
Stephanie.Dehghani@sisd.ae
Audrey.Galvin@sisd.ae
Luzanne.Bodenstein@sisd.ae
Grace.Lynch@sisd.ae

Secondary:

Megan La Caze	Head of Secondary
Brian Cleary	Deputy Head of Secondary (Pastoral)
Angela Arnold	Deputy Head of Secondary (Academic)
Anthony Loxston-Baker	IB MYP Coordinator
Vibha Masand	IB DP Coordinator
Lisa Bardin	IB CP Coordinator
Lizelle Aploon	Secretary for Secondary
Saskia Theres	Secondary School Counsellor
Rhiana Courlander	College Counsellor
Mark Swaine	Grade 6 Coordinator
Kiran Ali	Grade 7 Coordinator
Zainab Syed	Grade 8 Coordinator
Joseph O'Toole	Grade 9 Coordinator
Francis Barbuti	Grade 10 Coordinator
Conor Fitzmaurice	Grade 11 Coordinator
Darragh Coughlan	Grade 12 Coordinator

Megan.LaCaze@Sisd.ae
Brian.Cleary@Sisd.ae
Angela.Arnold@sisd.ae
Anthony.LoxstonBaker@sisd.ae
Vibha.Masand@sisd.ae
Lisa.Bardin@sisd.ae
Lizelle.Aploon@sisd.ae
Saskia.Theres@sisd.ae
Rhiana.Courlander@sisd.ae
Mark.Swaine@sisd.ae
Kiran.Ali@sisd.ae
Zainab.Syed@sisd.ae
Joseph.Otoole@sisd.ae
Francis.Barbuti@sisd.ae
Conor.Fitzmaurice@sisd.ae
Darragh.Coughlan@sisd.ae

General School:

Aisling O'Connor	Head of Inclusion
Ashley Fitzgibbons	Head of Boarding
Rob Duncan	Head of Sport

Aisling.Oconnor@sisd.ae
Ashley.Fitzgibbons@sisd.ae
Rob.Duncan@sisd.ae



We can't wait to meet you

For more information, please contact info@sisd.ae



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