

HEAD OF SCHOOL WELCOME

| August 19, 2016 | Derek Luebbe

Important Dates

August 29 & 30: Student Photo Days

August 31: Back to School Night

September 5: LS ASAs Begin

September 6: PAFA General Meeting
& Coffee Morning at 10:00 am

September 10: Welcome Back PAFA
BBQ

September 15: Mid-Autumn Festival,
No School

September 17: Dragon Cup Volleyball
@ HQ

September 30: United Nations
International Day of Peace

Important Contacts

[Derek Luebbe](#) – Head of School

[Liz Gale](#) – LS Principal

[Frank Volpe](#) – US Principal

[Naomi Shanks](#) – US Vice Principal

[Joanna Zhou](#) – HoS Secretary

[Stu Ren](#) – Transportation Assistant

[Trish Castillo](#) – PAFA Rep

Important Links

[Weekly Menu](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Communitas](#)



A New Year Begins

Dear Parents and Students,

As we kick off the 2016-17 school year, I want to extend a warm welcome to everyone in the SCIS Pudong community. I'm honored to be returning to SCIS after spending the last eight years in Budapest, Hungary. Initially, I want to say thank you to all the students and families for the warm welcome I have received. SCIS is truly a *community school*.



The first few days have flown by and I continue to be impressed with the faculty and students. I want to extend a special thank you to the school support staff: Joanna, Jelly, Vicky, Julia, David, Merry, Stu, Michael, Merry, and Selina, and all the cleaners and kitchen staff. You may not know all of these people as they do much of their work behind the scenes, but they are valuable players in the SCIS team. Because of their dedication and attention, our first few days of school have proceeded very smoothly: students have schedules, busses run, the facility looks great and the goal of "student learning" is moving forward at full speed!

Students, I'm sure you all are experiencing some excitement and nerves about all the unknowns of the new year: new teachers, new

friends, and (for many) a new city! I hope that many of you are excited for the academic challenges that await you as we implement the PYP and MYP programs – helping prepare you for our culminating IB Diploma Program (DP). I promise that you will be challenged this year in a world-class academic program.

But more importantly, I want to assure you that we will never lose sight of what makes SCIS special – our supportive, personalized community. I encourage you all to re-connect with old friends and teachers as well as reach out to those who are new. Your personal and academic growth are based on the relationships you will make. These are the foundations from which you grow. Nurture them, and we will go far together.

I welcome you all once again to the new school year. I look forward to getting to know each of you and your families. Your success is our goal. We will take it one day at a time – together.

Respectfully,

Derek Luebbe
DLuebbe@scis-china.org
Head of School

Partnering With Parents: Communication Is The Key

At SCIS we pride ourselves on our sense of community. To serve each student successfully, we want to partner with parents. With your knowledge of your child and our expertise in education, we can work together to maximize each child's experience. The guidelines below are shared to assist us in understanding the communication process.

What if I have a question about my child's program?

As a parent, if you have questions, we ask you to communicate with the person at school who would have the greatest knowledge base. In most cases, that would be the child's teacher. An email is the easiest way to communicate with teachers. If needed, a phone call or face to face conversation can also add clarity. When possible/appropriate, we encourage these conversations to take place with the child so that the result of the conversation is a stronger shared understanding between teacher, parent, and child.

Is it wrong to ask a question to my child's teacher?

No. In fact, as an international school following the American framework, this is expected. If you or your child has a question or suggestion for how their learning might be improved, teachers want to hear it. They are professionals and will do their best to help improve the situation. While we recognize that in some cultures, it may be a new experience for parents to ask questions of the teacher, we assure you that these benefit your child. Questions are not seen as a sign of disrespect. They are a sign of active parent involvement in the hopes of helping students adapt to their new school culture. Often, when parents ask questions, both teacher and parent come away with a better understanding of the child. In the end, that benefits the child!

Are there other parents who can help answer questions?

Yes. Our PAFA organization is a great resource for this. If they do not know the answer, they will likely know who to direct you to within SCIS to get an answer.

Where can I go to get basic information?

- Our website <https://pd.scis-his.net/> is the best place to start. On it, you will find a wealth of information on our programs and upcoming events.
- Our media site <https://media.scis-his.net> is updated regularly with photos and videos of all of our campus events
- Our [@SCIS Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) pages are great ways to connect, and don't forget to add our official SCIS account on WeChat: scishis .

How will the school communicate with me about important school events?

SCIS communicates in many ways.

- Individual student information (homework, grades, class newsletters) is communicated by teachers in various methods. More information is forthcoming.
- Each division (Upper School and Lower School) will share Weekly Bulletin (PDF) sent to families highlighting important events and information.
- Each month, I will share a Head of School Monthly Bulletin to highlight important school-wide events and information.
- Each month, the two campuses of SCIS (Hongqiao and Pudong) combine their efforts to produce a Communitas Magazine shared with students on both campuses. The Communitas highlights all the system-wide events and program initiatives that unite both campuses into one dynamic school system.

How can I be sure I'm receiving all of the important communication from the school?

We're excited to announce that this year every SCIS parent will receive their own @scis-parent.org email account to receive all of your school related communication. These new email accounts will ensure that we no longer have to worry about school communication being redirected to junk folders or not being received due to technical errors. Soon, all communication between the parents and the school, teachers, and staff must only use these accounts.

Our technology department has sent every parent with details on how to set up their new @scis-parent.org email account this week. If you have not received this notice, please contact them at pd-technology@scis-china.org

Communication in any school is a challenge. We will continue to work on this aspect because we know that improving communication ultimately means improving the experience for our students.