

SHANGHAI AMERICAN SCHOOL

PUDONG CAMPUS



OUR MISSION

**Shanghai American School inspires in all students:
A lifelong passion for learning
A commitment to act with integrity and compassion
The courage to live their dreams**

ABOUT SAS PUDONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT

260

AVERAGE DIVISION
FACULTY TENURE

3.4 YEARS

STUDENT PASSPORT
COUNTRIES/REGIONS
IN DIVISION

19

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY
RATIO IN DIVISION

6.5:1

BEST 3 THINGS
ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL

3 Students engage in inquiry to develop a conceptual understanding of the world around them.

2 We offer a curriculum that supports all learners by creating accessibility as well as challenge.

1 Our approach celebrates the individual, giving students greater voice and choice.



At PDMS, students engage in challenging inquiry-based learning experiences, enriching extracurricular athletics and activities programs, and robust Exploratory and HomeBase programs. We foster intellectual curiosity and a sense of responsibility through an academically challenging environment.

We ground our work in an understanding of adolescent development to nurture our learners as they grow. We offer a standards-based approach that is aligned with SAS' Mission and Core Values and designed to meet the needs of our diverse community of learners. We do this by intentionally creating learning experiences that are intellectually rigorous, relevant, and differentiated to support students and their learning needs.

Wellbeing, social emotional learning, and respect for self and others are integral to what we do at PDMS. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to creating an environment that is safe, equitable, and inclusive. Our HomeBase Program helps students learn about themselves, fosters empathy and appreciation for others, and promotes inclusion and belonging.

At PDMS we cultivate lifelong learners and balanced, globally minded individuals who are prepared to positively contribute to our world.

Charmagne E. Braden

Charmagne Braden

“What I love most about SAS is the warm and caring community cultivated by all of its members. Having my children grow up in this community gives them opportunities to develop outstanding social and emotional skills, which is the best gift to their childhood.”

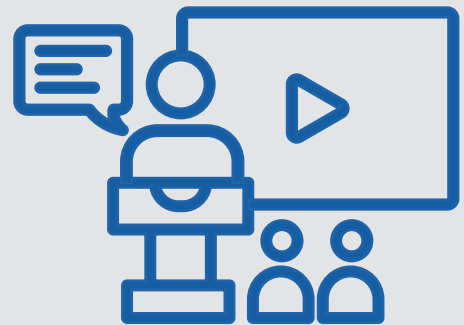
— Molly, SAS MS Parent

A Shanghai American School education equips students to transfer their knowledge and skills beyond the classroom, in authentic settings, over a lifetime.

SKILLFUL COMMUNICATORS

SAS learners are skillful communicators who advocate for self and others in more than one language by listening, responding, and articulating ideas through multiple media.

At SAS, we have an enviable World Classroom program that enables middle school students to turn the world, well, into a classroom. Through our World Classroom experiences, our students take their learning outside of the school gates to spend an experiential week engaging in our “Menwai” (outside the gate) pillars: expanding intercultural understanding, working through challenges, personal growth, and awareness of impact. Along the way students document and reflect on their journey and learning experiences with the goal of communicating their growth and reflection through multiple media.



CRITICAL THINKERS

SAS learners are critical thinkers who develop ideas and construct arguments by questioning, evaluating, synthesizing, and considering perspective.

To accelerate our students’ development as critical learners, grade 7 students participate in the Recycling Regatta during which they are faced with a seemingly impossible task: form a team and build a boat made out of cardboard and other recycled materials. Oh, and then prove it floats. This highly restrictive assignment forces our students to develop unique ideas and see them through rounds of feedback and iterations until the big day when our eight-lane aquatic center fills with boats – some of which inevitably may fill with water. While results vary on the water, among the students themselves, the project provides an opportunity for tremendous growth.



EFFECTIVE COLLABORATORS

SAS learners are effective collaborators who help teams innovate outcomes to achieve a goal by holding themselves and others accountable, contributing in productive ways, and sustaining respectful interactions.

How do you try and address the toughest real-world issues the world faces? You don't do it alone! In middle school, students engage in integrative work where they team with others to identify challenges ranging from health, the environment, diversity, to energy – choosing issues they believe are most relevant to our world. Students explore the driving forces that create the challenges and articulate the concerns in a way that helps communicate the urgency of the issues. They work together to formulate responses and potential solutions that can address their specific issue.



ETHICAL GLOBAL CITIZENS

SAS learners are ethical global citizens who take action based on informed decisions filtered through empathy, integrity, sustainability, and social justice.

Encouraging students to take action as ethical global citizens can happen through singular events, but we also know it happens through the daily choices we make as we engage with the world around us. In Pudong Middle School, we create all

kinds of opportunities through our curriculum and programs to help students take action based on informed decisions filtered through empathy, integrity, sustainability, and social justice. Whether through our Roots and Shoots program, our Kindness Matters Exploratory, engaging in Menwai experiences, or by sorting their food trays at the end of lunch, PDMS students are challenged to make daily choices about how they wish to engage with the world around them.



CREATIVE LEARNERS

SAS learners are creative learners who engage their imaginations to generate novel ideas, demonstrate flexible thinking, evaluate approaches, and take action.

When out and about in Shanghai, you may spot people with reusable SAS shopping bags. In fact, they're not just bags – they're also math lessons! See, at SAS, banners often are created to promote events on campus. And after the events? Grade 6 students take outdated banners and apply their math skills in a most creative way to maximize the use of those banners as they're transformed into recyclable bags. It's called the Upcycle Project, and it enables students to work with a local not-for-profit to create "Banner Bags" that – yes – can be used for shopping over and over again.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

There is no average day at Shanghai American School. But here are a few moments your child is likely to experience on a regular basis when they attend middle school at the Pudong campus of SAS.



7:45am

In middle school on the Pudong campus, the SAS experience begins even before the class bell rings. Students who arrive early to school have the opportunity to visit one of the themed rooms before the day begins – whether it be to read, finish homework, or hone their tech skills.



7:55am

The official school day begins with an opportunity for students to reconnect with each other, to check in with counselors and teachers, and to plan their day thoughtfully. It's called HomeBase, and the time it takes each morning creates a positive base from which to have a productive day.



9:16am

Walk through the Skybridge that connects the two wings of the middle school, and you'll see a space that feels just like students created it. That's because they did. Based on student feedback, the Skybridge is a place for students to connect, explore, and simply be themselves.



1:38pm

The period after lunch is known as “flex time.” This time is divided between a focus on social/emotional growth, and exploratories. Exploratories are mini-courses that enable students to explore self-chosen subjects or interests that are complementary or perhaps outside their coursework.



12:38pm

Lunch has two sections. There's the nourishment part, which comprises the first half of the lunch period. And there's the reconnection part, which gives students free time to connect. Because of the division's no tech policy at this time, the connection is with each other, not their devices!



10:38am

Some middle school students are morning people, some are afternoon people. Some love math, others love the arts. With our rotating schedule, classes are taken at different blocks in the day, assuring each student the opportunity to function in each subject at their highest level.



3:15pm

The curricular schedule finishes at 3pm, and for the vast majority of SAS students, the co-curricular activities take over. Students can compete athletically in CISSA, a non-competitive athletic conference, participate in Model United Nations or robotics, or receive homework help from their teachers.



4:30pm

The SAS fleet of electric buses load up with tired, fulfilled students ready to be whisked home. Some students will spend their time talking with friends. Others will do homework or listen to music. Still others will read books. The activities are as diverse as the students themselves.

WANT TO GET THE FULL EXPERIENCE?



Scan the code to watch
One Day at SAS Middle School.