

Learn, love, lead... Building the future together Our annual report 2023-24



## From our Head of School

## **Review of last year**

At Wuhan Yangtze International School, we are committed to inspiring learners to make a life-changing difference for the common good.

Dear Wuhan Community,

As we close another successful year at Wuhan Yangtze International School, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for your support, dedication and collaboration. This year was a special one, as we celebrated our 20th anniversary of providing quality international education in Wuhan. We marked this milestone with a memorable International Day event in October, where we showcased our diverse and vibrant culture and spirit.

This year was also a year of recovery and resilience, as we returned to campus after three years of COVID-19 disruptions and online learning. We were able to resume our normal activities and events, such as sports, arts, field trips and service projects, while maintaining our health and safety protocols. We also made some campus improvements, such as revamping the Buffalo Store, upgrading our facilities and enhancing our security system.

One of the highlights of this year was our partnership with EFIW, our neighboring French school. We collaborated on several initiatives, such as sharing resources, hosting joint events and exchanging students and teachers. This partnership enriched our learning environment and strengthened our ties with the local community.

We also continued our professional development and curriculum improvement efforts, as we trained our teachers in masterybased learning and differentiated instruction. These approaches aim to personalize learning for each student and help them achieve their full potential. We increased our English Language Support staffing to better serve our English language learners and ensure their academic success.

We increased our online presence and outreach, as we started a Little Red Book account and enhanced our social media and marketing strategies. We launched live streaming of our LifePlus soccer tournament for the first time, which allowed our fans and supporters to watch our teams compete and cheer them on.

These are just some of the achievements and highlights of this year. I am proud of our students, staff and parents for making them possible. I thank you for your trust and confidence in our school and I look forward to another great year ahead.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Christopher Rehm** *Head of School* 



#### Our annual report 2023-24

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## Growing up in Wuhan

## **A brief history**

## 2003

**Small beginnings** Our school started life as South Lake International School in the Wuchang district of Wuhan with seven students.

## 2011

#### Growing with our students

We became the first international school in central China to be granted a Foreign Expat Children's School license by the Ministry of Education.

## 2012

#### Moving with the times

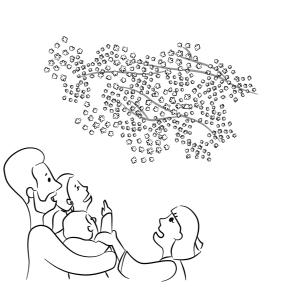
As we began to outgrow our former location, construction started in 2012 on our new campus in the Hanyang district. In 2014, we moved into our current location at 10–1 Boxue Lu.

## 2023

**Birthday celebrations** 

We celebrated our 20-year anniversary during the 2023–24 school year. We now serve over 260 students every year.





## Part of the LifePlus family

## **Accreditation**



CREDITE

cognia

Through LifePlus, our school is accredited by Cognia, a world-renowned educational body that recognizes the incredibly high standards of our work and continues to evaluate our performance. LifePlus also benefits us in three important areas.

First, LifePlus helps us to innovate: sharing research, knowledge and ideas. Second, LifePlus is a truly international and robust setup that lets us focus on what we do best: growing servant leaders of outstanding character, competence and calling. Third, LifePlus makes Wuhan more than a local school, connecting us to a worldwide network of talent, knowledge and support. To learn more, visit lifeplusworldwide.com

Wuhan Yangtze International School is accredited by Cognia, the largest education improvement organization in the worlddemonstrating our commitment to learners, teachers, leaders and communities. Being Cogniaaccredited, the incredibly high standards of our work are recognized globally, and our performance continually evaluated-raising us higher, taking our students further.



1 Tianjin International School tiseagles.com Z

yhischina.com Z

3 International School of Qingdao isgchina.com 🗹

2 Yantai Huasheng International School 4 Wuhan Yangtze International School wyischina.com 🗹

cdischina.com 🗹 6 The WellSpring Private School

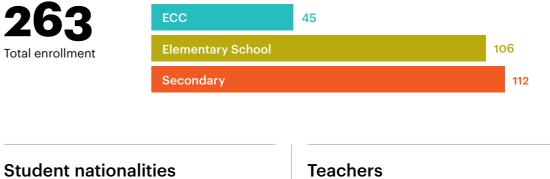
6 Chengdu International School

tws-rak.org 🗹

## Who we are

## **Demographics**

#### Student population



Passport countries include Australia, Canada, China (Hong Kong, Taiwan and more), France, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, USA and others

### **Teacher: Student ratio**

1:4

#### Average class size



**ECC** × 15 Elementary School × 13 Secondary × 16

Passport countries include Brazil, Canada, China, France, Hungary, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, South Korea, UK, Ukraine and USA

### Average years of experience

**11** years

67

#### Post baccalaureate studies



69% 55% of our teachers and staff have a master's degree. 7% of our teachers and staff have a Doctorate. 7% of our teachers and staff are currently working on a master's degree. **Our values** 

What we do and why

### LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life



I treat myself and every person with intrinsic value and purpose. • I strategically use the gifts and talents that I have to accomplish bigger purposes. • *I look* for deeper meaning and explanations and I am not content with appearances or easy answers.



I value people and so I invest in communication, language learning and understanding the cultures in which I live. • I collaborate effectively and respectfully with people from any culture. • I build and maintain healthy relationships with others in my life.

*I have an accurate picture* of my

abilities, thinking neither too

highly nor too lowly of myself.

• *I acknowledge* my limitations

and my need for help, as well

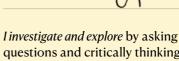
as accept criticism and

sportsmanship.

demonstrate a teachable

spirit. • I demonstrate good

Humility



questions and critically thinking about the answers. • *I am eager* for authentic knowledge, wisdom and understanding. • *I refuse* to let others do my thinking for me or cheat myself out of learning opportunities.



I can see and understand people, things or situations clearly. • I use knowledge to make wise choices and judgments, speak the truth and live with integrity.



what is best. • I am willing to ask • *I persist* in thinking, inquiring presence of threat or fear.



*I strive for excellence and practice diligence* to get things right; I don't give up. • I respectfully communicate until I am understood and question until I understand. • I approach challenges with tenacity, creativity and thinking.

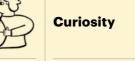
# Courage

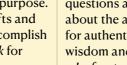


I take risks and boldly do questions and make mistakes. and discussing even in the



I make available my gifts, talents, me. • I show love towards the world around me by being a responsible caretaker of our resources.







I show empathy for others and look for ways to make a difference. • *I listen carefully* and think deeply to determine the best response or action. • I will communicate my beliefs with clarity and respect.



time, energy and enthusiasm to serve the needs of those around

### **People who learn**

We are purposeful, curious and discerning.

#### **People who love**

We are connected. courageous and compassionate.

**People who lead** 

We are *humble* and *persistent* in *service*.



At Wuhan Yangtze, we desire for our students to grow in more than

knowledge. That's why we spend time and great care investing in character

everything we do. From administrators to kindergarteners, we strive to be...

education for all our students. The LifePlus Qualities for Life help guide

## A year of purpose, curiosity and discernment

## We learn

#### **ECC** updates

## A dynamic approach to education

Our Early Childhood Center (ECC) at Wuhan Yangtze has adopted a purposeful, playful learning approach for our students to master skills needed to flourish and be successful for the future. They engage in shared learning practices that allow them to problem-solve, use different materials, role-play, think critically and act creatively. When you see our children playing, you are observing learning in action. Playful learning occurs when the learning goals and standards of adults and the interests and curiosities of students align. In this environment, students are leading their own learning, exploring the unknown and finding the joy of learning.



#### **Elementary updates**

Focus on learning progress We continue to implement the mastery-based grading system across all our teaching methods. We are excited about fully integrating this system, which emphasizes deep understanding and proficiency in various subjects. Our commitment to mastery ensures that each student achieves their full potential through personalized and effective learning strategies.

#### Showcase of innovation

Our Elementary STEM Expo was a vibrant celebration of student curiosity and creativity, featuring a diverse range of activities for Elementary students. Grade 5 students showcased their Science Fair projects. Young engineers in Grades 1-4 applied their knowledge of physics to craft balloon-powered vehicles that raced against each other. The event fostered collaboration, critical thinking and a deep appreciation for the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics among students.

# Learning through play

at ECC Camp We hosted a special ECC Camp where we invited parents to join their children in play. This event allowed parents to engage with their children and gain a deeper understanding of how learning through play is crucial for their development. By participating, parents saw firsthand the educational value of play and its role in fostering cognitive and social growth.









**BASIS INTERNATION** 

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REGENERON

**SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC** 

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#### Secondary updates

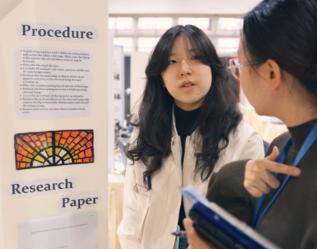
Young scientists shine Each year, our eighth and ninth-grade students undertake a science fair project that challenges them to design an experiment to answer a testable scientific question, write a background research report, conduct their experiments and prepare a presentation. This year, we proudly showcased 34 impressive projects. The winners of the ninth-grade competition earned the opportunity to participate in the prestigious Regeneron Sichuan Science Fair in Chengdu, China. We were thrilled to send three outstanding projects to represent our school at this event.

"The American learning method at Wuhan Yangtze has been a great discovery for us. It does not focus on memorization of facts for a single exam, rather it emphasizes a good work ethic throughout the year and a holistic education." Parent of alum

## Preparing students on their journey to university

We provide complimentary college and career counseling for all our students. This year, our counseling team held multiple workshops to help parents of students from kindergarten through high school begin to prepare their children for post-secondary education. These workshops explain the application process, PSAT, SAT and AP tests and help parents understand the content of the high school transcript. In addition to providing these sessions, we provide access to our College and Career Counselor for all secondary students and multiple recruiting visits from universities worldwide.





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INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

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## A year of connection, courage and compassion

## We love

## 20 years of diversity and community

Our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) helped make International Day a lively and memorable event, filled with energy and excitement. With over 20 countries and territories represented in our community, students and parents proudly shared their cultures through vibrant performances, delicious food and engaging activities. This year's event was our largest ever at Wuhan Yangtze, as we also celebrated our 20th anniversary with fun games and exciting prizes.



## A year of humility, persistence and service

## We lead

#### Wuhan makes a difference in Thailand

"This trip was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life," said one student about the LifePlus service trip to Chiang Rai, Thailand in February 2024. Seventeen students and four teachers from Wuhan Yangtze, alongside a team from five other LifePlus China schools, participated in this 10-day journey with Odyssey. During the trip, students engaged in various community service activities such as painting, coaching soccer and organizing a day camp for children from a local children's home. Thanks to the generosity of the Wuhan Yangtze and LifePlus community, each student received a gift comprising a new pair of soccer shoes, shin guards and soccer socks. Additionally, students forged new friendships with peers from other LifePlus schools and found moments for personal reflection.

#### **Preparing future leaders**

We had the privilege of hosting the Senior Departure Seminar. The event was attended by more than 70 seniors from all six LifePlus China schools. The seminar focused on aiding students in transitioning to university life and achieving success in their academic pursuits.









## A year of arts, athletics and activities

## **Extra-curricular**

## Representing Wuhan on the world stage

Our robotics program teaches high school and middle school boys and girls how to work together to design, build and program robots that complete tasks of varying complexity. They learn creativity and problem-solving skills as they prepare their robot to join competitions against teams from our school and other schools in China and around the world. In May 2024, one of our middle school robotics teams won the right to compete in the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas, USA. They joined 480 top teams of 16,000 middle school teams around the world. Our students' robot scored higher than half of the teams in their division, and they impressed everyone with their ingenuity and perseverance.

## Creativity in collaboration

This year, students participated in a variety of collaborative projects that highlighted our school's culture and values. For International Day, students from every grade came together to decorate buffaloes, symbolizing our school spirit. At the Fine Arts Festival in Tianjin, they worked collectively to design a quilt that beautifully displayed our LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life. To wrap up the year, our Fashion Design students creatively showcased these same qualities in a captivating fashion show.









## Expanding athletics program scores big

We strive to educate the whole child-intellectually, emotionally and physically. Our athletics program is an important offering to our students. Each year, our high school students can join teams for volleyball, basketball and soccer. Middle school students can also join soccer, basketball and volleyball. This year, we began offering middle school and high school students the opportunity to join badminton teams. All teams competed in league games with other international schools in Wuhan, as well as schools throughout China. In a first for us, our high school boys' soccer team won the championship in both the local league and the LifePlus tournament.



### How we measure up

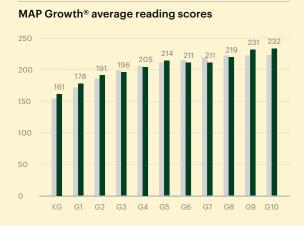
## **Standardized test results**

#### **MAP®** (Measures of Academic Progress)

Aligning with the LifePlus-adopted AERO standards, MAP® Growth<sup>™</sup> assessments serve more than 13 million students in the USA and abroad. The subject specific assessments measure both student achievement and growth in math, reading, language usage and science.

At Wuhan Yangtze International School, MAP® Growth<sup>™</sup> assessments in reading and math are taken by students in Kindergarten through Grade 10. Students in Grades 2–10 are also tested in language usage, and students in Grades 3–10 are tested in science.

Wuhan Yangtze International School mean



#### MAP Growth® average math scores



MAP Growth<sup>®</sup> average language usage scores



#### MAP Growth<sup>®</sup> average science scores

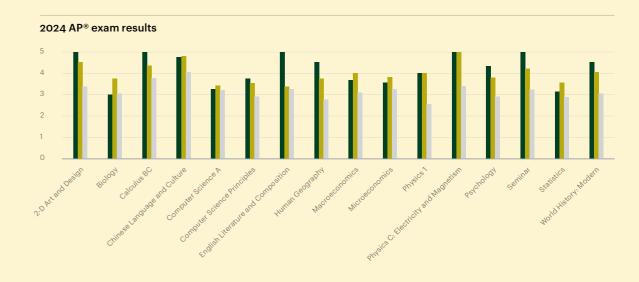


#### **AP®** (Advanced Placement)

College Board's AP<sup>®</sup> program provides high school students with university-level curricula and exams. Universities worldwide consider AP scores in student acceptance, and many universities offer course credits to students with test scores of 3 or higher.

This profile highlights Wuhan Yangtze International School's average score on each 2024 subject-area AP exam, comparing it to the LifePlus schools' 5-year average and the 2023 global average.





#### **SAT®** (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

The SAT is a College Board standardized test widely used for college admissions that measures a student's writing, critical reading, and mathematics skills. Students may take the test as often as they like throughout their high school careers and submit their highest scores to universities.

Wuhan Yangtze International School reports the highest average scores of 11th and 12th graders compared to the average scores of all LifePlus schools in China and the global average.

2024 SAT® average			
	Total	Math	Reading and Writing
Wuhan Yangtze International School	1,325	669	656
LifePlus China	1,351	709	642
Global	1,050	520	530

## Next steps on the learning journey

## **University acceptances**

Students at Wuhan Yangtze International School and other schools in the LifePlus family, have been accepted at colleges and universities this academic year including:

#### Australia

**Royal Melbourne Institute** of Technology University of Melbourne University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney) University of Sydney

#### Canada

McMaster University University of Alberta University of British Colombia University of Calgary University of Toronto Western University

#### China

**Chinese University** of Hong Kong **HKUST** (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

#### **Czech Republic**

Czech Technical University

#### France

**Rennes School of Business** 

#### South Korea

Ewha Womans University

Korea Advanced Institue of Science and Technology (KAIST) Korea University Seoul National University Sungkyunkwan University Yonsei University

#### Singapore

National University of Singapore (NUS) · **Computer Science** Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

#### UAE

American University RAK American University Sharjah **RAK Medical** UAE University University of Sharjah

UK Goldsmith University

London **Kingston University** 

Loughborough University University of Glasgow University of Manchester

USA American University Art Center College of Design (California) Asbury University **Belmont University Biola University Boston University** 

> Cairn University California College of the Arts Carnegie Mellon University Cedarville University Eastern University

> > Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech) Grand Canyon University

## Iowa State University

Kansas City Art Institute Los Angeles College of Music Messiah University Michigan State University Mississippi College Montana State University Mt. San Antonio College New York University (NYU) North Texas University Northeastern University

Parsons School of Design

Pennsylvania State

University

Pratt Institute **Rhode Island School** of Design **Ringling College of** Art and Design **Rutgers University** Savannah College of Art and Design School of the Art Institute of Chicago School of Visual Arts (New York) **Temple University** The Ohio State University UC Berkeley University of California, (Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego and Santa Barbara) University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University of Maryland University of Pittsburgh University of Southern California University of Texas at Austin University of Texas at Dallas University of Washington Vanderbilt University Virginia Tech Washington University

## Investing in the common good

## Financial summary, 2023–24



for academics and personnel

All costs associated with learning resources,

textbooks, field trips and technology for learning,

and all staff expenses and professional development.





### for operations

Utilities, lease and maintenance.



#### for administration

Costs including all other school technology, equipment and support expenditures.





### for LifePlus district services

Special needs support, English Learning Support, curriculum development and student well-being programs.

## How we intend to grow

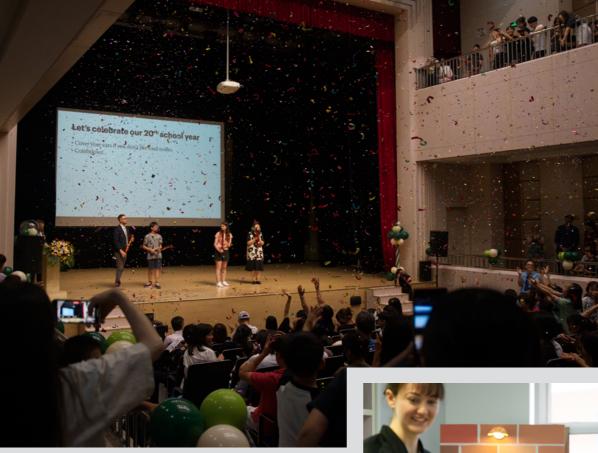
## Our goals for 2024-25

#### **Celebrating our milestones**

International partnerships Our school has long shared a campus with École Française Internationale de Wuhan (EFIW), but for the first time ever, we have officially partnered together. This exciting collaboration has enriched the diversity of our global community and expanded the range of After-School Activities available to students.

#### 20 years of excellence in Wuhan

We are celebrating the growth and success of our college admissions process. We look back after 20 years and remain excited for the quality and fit of the universities for our graduates. We are proud of our character education and holistic program which prepares our students for success in life, not just academics in college.



"Wuhan Yangtze is the first international school our children have attended. We have experienced a great learning environment with knowledgeable and patient teachers who have a strong passion for helping their students grow." Parent of alum



#### Growing together next year

## Transforming student learning

We are working on fully implementing mastery-based grading, which is a system that measures student learning based on specific learning standards and outcomes. Mastery-based grading provides more accurate and meaningful feedback to students and parents, and it encourages students to focus on learning rather than grades. We have studied and piloted this system. Next year we will use it in all grade levels with an adopted grading system to follow in future years.

## Enhancing our campus for collaboration

We are working on continually maintaining and improving our campus to enhance our learning and reflect our values as a welcoming family community. Each year we make facility upgrades that best serve the needs of our students and families. Next year, we will look to updating our outdoor spaces and our ability to host parent workshops.

## Showcasing learning and impact

We are working on better showing (instead of telling) parents the magic that happens daily at our school. We want you to see and experience the amazing things that our students and teachers are doing in and out of the classroom, and how they are learning, growing and making a difference. We will use more visual and interactive methods to showcase our school.





Learn more at wyischina.com

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- 外籍人员子女学校
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