



international  
school of wuxi  
A LifePlus® International School

Our annual report 2022-23

A year  
committed to  
learning, loving  
and leading  
**Our annual  
report 2022-23**





"My children are very, very happy here. They have great friendships..."  
Parent of alum

## A warm welcome...

### From our Head of School

Welcome to the International School of Wuxi. It is my honor to serve as Wuxi's Head of School. For 17 years, we have worked to build strong relationships with our students and their families. We are deeply committed to providing our students with a high-quality and well-rounded education. We want our students to enjoy learning and be transformed into globally minded individuals. We understand that students learn in different ways. We work to ensure all students have access to learning opportunities and to the appropriate resources to reach their potential. We offer support services such as Academic Learning Support, English Language Support, Social Emotional Counseling, and College + Career Counseling.

The 2022-23 school year was packed with uncertainty, surprises and excitement. We started the school year grateful for the fact that we could meet face-to-face, but by the end of the week we had to move to eLearning due to Covid. Staff and students seamlessly transitioned, and learning continued without disruption. Sadly, some of our events were cancelled. Even though some things did not turn out the way we wanted them to, we can still look back and be thankful for all the memories that were made.

Surprisingly, Wuxi students still had many opportunities to showcase their talents. Some of our students participated in the Wuxi Foreign Students Painting Competition, the Wuxi International Cherry Blossom Festival, and the Chinese Reading Competition just to

name a few. We also had the opportunity to impact lives off campus. We raised enough money to fully fund one heart surgery and partially fund another heart surgery for two boys in need through the Heart-to-Heart organization. From Spirit Day to International Day, the Wuxi City Spelling Bee to the spring concerts and spring trips, our students all had opportunities to shine.

The 2023-24 school year will bring some exciting changes and opportunities. We will continue to build strong relationships in the community and with the local government. We will continue to be a warm and caring community of teachers and professionals who want to serve and see students succeed and grow into individuals who learn, love and lead.

Warmly,  
**Dr. Phillip Williams**  
*Head of School*





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## Growing up in Wuxi

### A brief history

#### 2007

**Small beginnings**  
Leadership Development International (now LifePlus) collaborates with DongFang International School to establish the International School of Wuxi.



#### 2012

**Recognized for excellence**  
We earn the highest level of Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation, which lasts for six years.

#### 2015

**Better together**  
Through our parent organization, we partner with other international schools across China to share knowledge and ideas, resources and expertise, talent and support.

#### 2021

**Growing with our students**  
As part of the LifePlus family, we become accredited by Cognia—a world-renowned educational body—making us the only international school in Wuxi to enjoy two formal accreditations.

*“I have many stories that I can recall of time spent at International School of Wuxi. All the best stories revolve around its community of students and staff.”*  
LifePlus Superintendent of Schools



# Part of the LifePlus family

## LifePlus endorsement

- 1 Tianjin International School
- 2 Yantai Huasheng Int'l school
- 3 International School of Qingdao
- 4 International School of Wuxi
- 5 Wuhan Yangtze Int'l School
- 6 Chengdu International School
- 7 The WellSpring Private School

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 International School of Wuxi more than a local school: connecting us to a worldwide network of talent, knowledge and support. To learn more, visit [lifeplusworldwide.com](https://lifeplusworldwide.com)

### Cognia

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



# Who we are

## Demographics

Number of teachers

46

Staff nationalities

10

Average class size

12

Teacher:Student

1:4

Student nationalities

12





# What we do and why

## Our values

At the International School of Wuxi, we desire for our students to grow in more than knowledge. That’s why we spend time and great care investing in character education and development for all our staff and students. The LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life help guide everything we do. From administrators to kindergartners, we strive to be...

### People who learn

We are *purposeful, curious* and *discerning*.

### People who love

We are *connected, courageous* and *compassionate*.

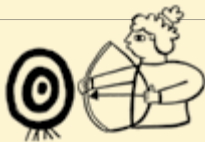
### People who lead

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



## LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life

### Purpose



*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.*

### Connection



*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.*

### Humility



*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 demonstrate a teachable spirit.*
- *I demonstrate good sportsmanship.*

### Curiosity



*I investigate and explore* by asking 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.*

### Compassion



*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.*

### Service



*I make available my gifts, talents, time, energy and enthusiasm* to serve the needs of those around me.

- *I show love towards the world around me by being a responsible caretaker of our resources.*

### Discernment



*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.*

### Courage



*I take risks* and boldly do what is best.

- *I am willing to ask questions and make mistakes.*
- *I persist in thinking, inquiring and discussing even in the presence of threat or fear.*

### Persistence



*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.*

# A year of purpose, curiosity and discernment

## We learn

### ECC

Wuxi's Early Childhood Center is a vibrant and joyful community that values every child. One of the key aspects of our program is purposeful play, which research has shown to be crucial for young students' social-emotional, physical and cognitive development. Our teachers model the use of real-world materials and tools, allowing students to explore learning themes in mathematics, literacy and science. They also practice verbal language and problem-solving skills both indoors and outdoors.

### Elementary

The elementary program supports the individualized learning styles of each child providing opportunities for specialized enrichment programs in music, art, physical education, language and technology ensuring a well-rounded education.



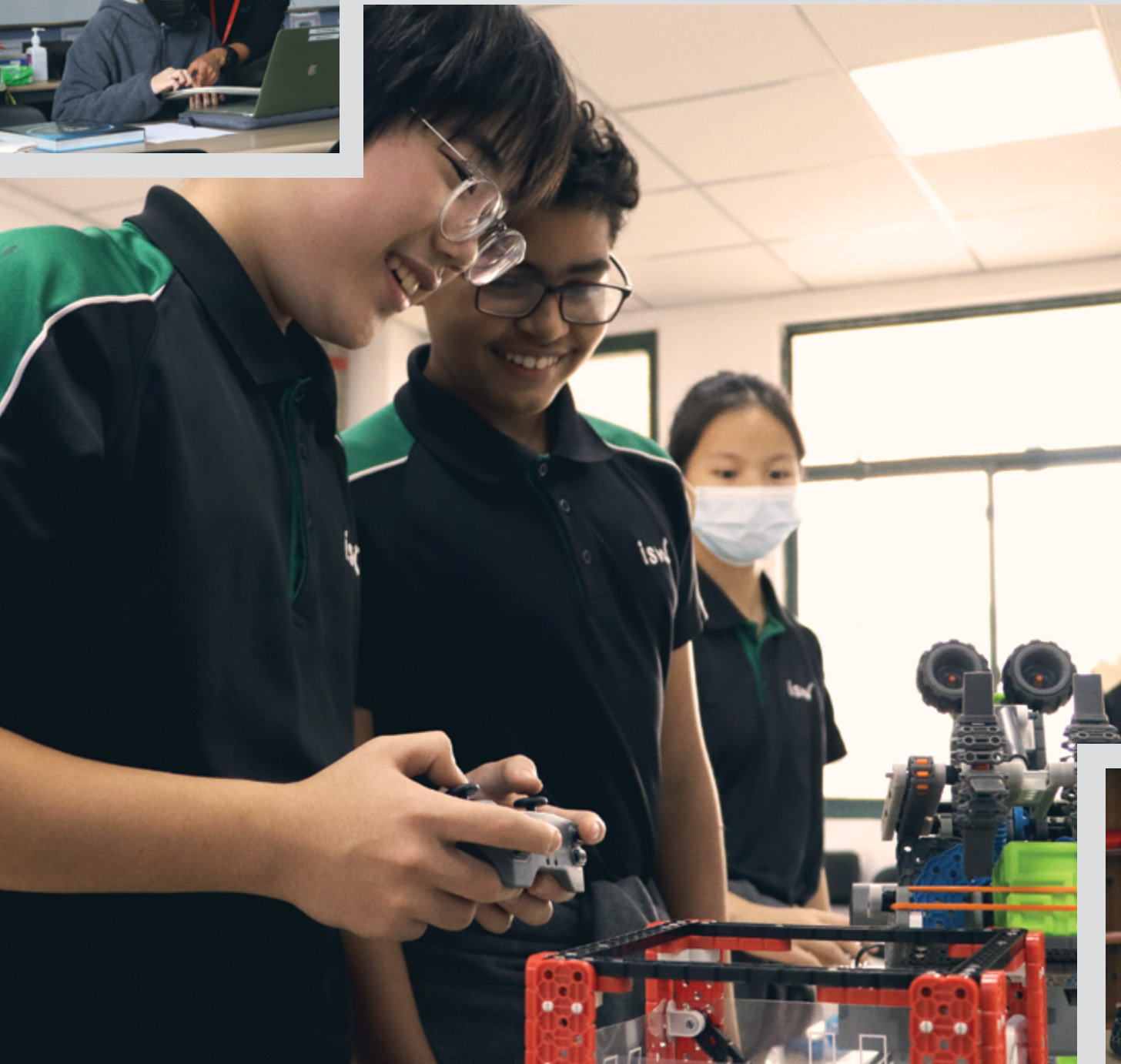
### Leadership

Leadership is a key aspect of the program, as students learn problem-solving and critical thinking skills through active participation in the learning process. Teachers and students ask questions, explore and investigate together, fostering skillful communication in written, verbal and aesthetic forms of expression. Students also learn to make wise choices in leading themselves and their peers.

### Fifth Grade Transitions Program

Transitioning into middle school can be challenging. Many students find that the increased workload, mounting responsibilities along with added social-emotional stress makes transitioning into middle school a confusing and difficult experience. Our Transitions Program prepares students for the transition into middle school. Grade 5 students are in self-contained homeroom for the first semester with content teachers traveling to their homerooms to deliver instruction. At the start of the second semester, students travel to different classrooms to receive content instruction. FLEX time is available during the day. This time is also used as a study hall and a time to receive extra academic support if needed.





**Middle School**

The middle school program is designed with the understanding that students in grades six through eight need opportunities to maximize learning. Students have opportunities to explore concepts and demonstrate content knowledge across the curriculum. Integrated instructional approaches using STEM concepts provide students with varied and rich educational experiences giving them access to guided student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking.

**Technology**

Each middle school student has access to an electronic school issued device. Technology is integrated into the middle school curriculum, enhancing students' research, communication and collaboration skills. Students learn appropriate 21st century technology skills and essential digital citizenship skills that prepare them for a technologically integrated world.



“What excites me about my son learning here is the fact that he is known, loved and will be motivated to do his best and discover new interests every day.”  
Current parent







**CCA Program**

At Wuxi, co-curricular activities are essential to education beyond the classroom. These activities give our students the opportunity to expand their learning and creativity while developing their confidence, as all are encouraged to get involved and explore their interests. We find that students who are involved in co-curriculars are more invested in their school experience, in turn leading to higher academic performance, social well-being and leadership development.



**High School**

The Secondary program provides a holistic curriculum that balances the development of concepts, skills and character. There is a focus on guided inquiry, collaboration and communication as approaches to teaching and learning.

**STEM**

Students meet twice a week for a project-based STEM class that focuses on hands-on activities in construction, 3D printing and exploring how things work in the new STEM lab.

“Teachers take seriously mentoring [every child’s] character. They’re invested in the students—not just within the classroom, but outside the classroom, which is really unusual.”  
Parent of alum



**Internship Program**

Our internship program provides junior and senior students opportunities and meaningful learning experiences to develop interpersonal and professional skills. These skills allow the students to discover what areas they excel in and can help them to make an informed decision concerning the pursuit of a future career.





# A year of connection, courage and compassion

## We love



### Parent Teacher Association

The parent-teacher Association in Wuxi is incredibly proactive in their efforts to strengthen our school community. Parents from every grade level actively participate in the PTA, collaborating to organize a variety of exciting school-wide events throughout the year. These events play a crucial role in bringing us all closer together, fostering strong connections between our dedicated staff, enthusiastic students and supportive parents.



### Student well-being and safety

At Wuxi, we recognize that students are not purely academic beings. For this reason, we have social-emotional counselors. These staff members have training in supporting teachers and coaching students through the challenges that they face.



Additionally, we focus on helping our children develop the skills needed to interact well with those around them. The Second Step program for social-emotional learning runs through the elementary and secondary programs. Second Step helps students develop maturity in handling feelings, resolving conflicts and making healthy friendships. Through games, songs, videos and role playing, students explore such issues as bullying, abuse prevention, cooperation and relationship building, all in age-appropriate sessions. Child Safety and Protection instruction occurs annually in all departments at International School of Wuxi.

Keeping our community safe and secure is a top priority. Every quarter, emergency drills are organized for the students so that they are prepared in the event of an incident. Emergency drills include fire safety, intruder lockdowns and earthquake drills. The school also actively encourages learning beyond the classroom through field trips and taking part in external competitions. Our safety vetting process of arranging a trip outside of school involves a rigorous process of checks, walk-throughs and approvals to ensure that student safety is preserved at all times. Every year, staff receive First Aid and CPR training to ensure student safety. The school nurse monitors and reports the AQI level three times a day. The level of physical activity is restricted if the AQI level is high.



# A year of humility, persistence and service

## We lead



**International Day**  
International Day is a favorite around Wuxi. The day begins with a parade of all the different classes dressed in traditional clothes of the country their class represents. Once the parade is over, everyone meets in the gym to learn about and experience different cultures. Students from Grade 1 through Grade 12 host other classes and share what they've learned about the country they've studied. This year, we were able to have visitors from outside our school community visit to celebrate International Day with us!



**6K for Water with Wuxi International Club**  
6 kilometers is the average distance a person in the developing world must walk to find water—water that is often not safe to drink or wash their hands with. Our community was able to raise awareness and funds to provide clean water for those in the developing world. Even though it was a hot, sunny day, we were so glad to participate in this event!



**LifePlus 5K May Challenge**  
Many in the Wuxi community participated in the 5K May Challenge. The challenge called for 5 kilometers of movement a day whether walking, running, swimming, cycling, etc. People from all over LifePlus were encouraged to get out and move every day for the month of May and share their experiences!

**ISW Change-Makers Club**  
Last year, Wuxi high school students started a club with the goal of making a positive impact within our city. This club met every week and brainstormed different ways they could accomplish that goal. Our Change-Makers Club participated in the clean-up campaign with a focus on saving the planet by recycling. Our Change-Makers Club, together with a local foreign company and Wuxi Korean School's Change-Makers Club cleaned up the area around the lake near a popular tourist attraction in Wuxi.



"I love the teachers and the passion they have for teaching. They can see your kids individually and help them individually. They know the needs of every kid."  
Parent of alum



# A year of arts, athletics and activities

## Extra-curricular

As the Covid restrictions eased and travel resumed, students were filled with excitement as they embarked on spring trips across the country. These trips provided them with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich culture, participate in thrilling competitions and sports tournaments, and reconnect with other LifePlus international schools in China as well as local international school competitions. It was truly a memorable experience for all!

### Spring Trips

We were so excited to be back on the road for Spring Trips! These trips range from exciting daytrips near Wuxi for middle school students to full-week adventures across the country for high school students. They offer so many meaningful opportunities for deep connections to be formed between peers and teachers. Not only do these spring trips provide a chance for learning outside the classroom, but they also foster a deep appreciation for our host culture and encourage acts of service.



“[Teachers] are very available for my children and for parents. We can really communicate together and ask many questions at any time.”  
Parent of alum

### LifePlus Fine Arts Festival

The LifePlus Fine Arts Festival was back in action, despite the travel restrictions. It’s such a joy to see our talented students expressing their creativity through the arts during this festival. Just imagine, our high school students gathered at school bright and early on Thursday morning to be a part of this incredible event in Tianjin. The festival was even broadcasted via live stream, so everyone could join in on the fun!

### Sporting Tournaments

We successfully hosted both the LifePlus tournaments and the SYAC tournaments. It was truly incredible to witness all the talented student athletes competing under one roof. The tournament brought about a wave of excitement and a strong sense of competition within our community.



## How we measure up

### Standardized test results

#### Scholastic Aptitude Test® (SAT®)

- Total exams taken: 38
- Total Average: 1259

|                             | Highest score | Average score |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| English Reading and Writing | 750           | 585           |
| Math                        | 800           | 670           |

#### Advanced Placement® (AP®)

- AP students in 2022: 30
- AP tests taken in 2022: 62
- Percentage of AP score over 3+: 83%



## Next steps on the learning journey

### University acceptances

We provide PSAT® (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test), SAT® (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and ACT (American College Test) entrance exams for students seeking college or university admission around the world. We also have two College and Career Counselors available for students to receive support as they make decisions about future education. We aim to grow our students’ abilities and help develop their gifts and talents while preparing them to become servant-leaders who can go anywhere in the world and have a positive impact. Students in the graduating class of 2023 have been accepted to the following colleges and universities.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Berklee College of Music,<br>Boston, MA           | Korea University, Seoul,<br>S. Korea            |
| The University of Hong Kong                       | Pennsylvania State University<br>Harrisburg, PA |
| Hong Kong University of Science<br>and Technology | Sungkyunkwan University,<br>Seoul, S. Korea     |
| University of Washington, WA                      | Purdue University,<br>West Lafayette, IN        |
| City University of Hong Kong                      | KAIST, DaeJeon, S. Korea                        |
| Yonsei University, Seoul,<br>S. Korea             |   |



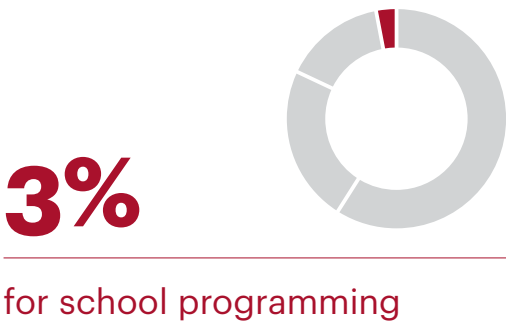






Investing in the common good

Financial summary, 2022-23

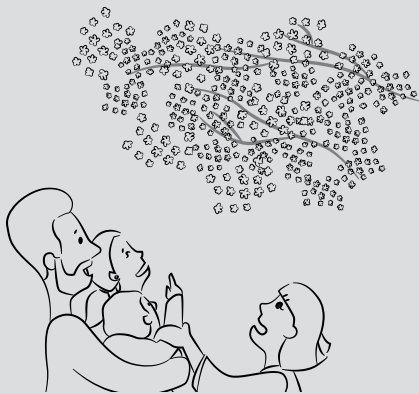


How we intend to grow

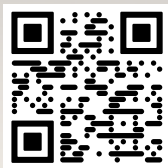
Our goals for 2023-24

We believe that educating the whole child is paramount to accomplishing our mission. We want our students to take what they have learned and apply those concepts in real world contexts. Part of a student’s academic journey is recognizing the areas of needed growth and celebrating the area of success. During the school year, our students were recognized for their academic achievements and for their demonstration of the LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life.

The coming year, we will focus on strengthening our academic programing and enhancing teacher’s instructional practices. STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) lessons and units will be integrated in lesson planning across content areas. To improve instruction, teachers will receive weekly professional development that will focus on instruction, motivation and classroom management.







Learn more at  
[iswuxi.com](https://iswuxi.com)

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