



Information for School Teams

Cultural Information for Students from Mainland China

What is school like in Mainland China?

There are three main school divisions in elementary education in China, including public schools, private schools copying public school systems, and international schools supervised by Education of Ministry but instruct students based on IB, A-level and other countries' curriculums. The former two schools will use the same textbooks required by their provincial education ministry.

A regular school day will start around 8 to 8:30 am, with four 40-min long classes in the morning plus a 30-min break, 1.5 hour lunch break and nap time, another two or three classes in the afternoon, then students leave schools around 5 pm. Such timeline maintains similar all the way to high school; however, school time will increase when students enter higher grades. International schools vary this to certain extent or totally. To cover all necessary contents in relatively short class time (40 minutes), every class is expected to be very efficient and highly instructed. Students will not be given much time or any to do preview, review, homework and project, hence all the extra work need to be done at home.

Chinese schools start from Grade One, admitting children aged 6 or turning 6 by the end of August. From Grade One to Grade Six, each classroom will be assigned a "homeroom teacher" to take the overall responsibility and act as the main contact with parents. Usually this "homeroom teacher" only teach one subject for this class, and all other subjects will be shared by different teachers. All children will take English as a second language in elementary school, but the content and practice is limited. At the end of Grade Six, all students will enter a placement test that will determine where they are going for middle schools. Such admission exams happen at the end of middle schools and high schools.

Elective courses did not exist in Chinese schools and has just started to appear in secondary schools very recently. The homeroom structure continues in secondary schools, so students remain in the same classroom with the same classmates every hour and every day all (3) year(s) long, but subject teachers will come and go between classes. The same class schedule and similar pathways are shared in the classrooms until students enter Grade 12. As universities admit students based on one-time entrance exams evaluating all school academic subjects, students are expected to learn them all and well. In this circumstance, students are not given many opportunities to find out their strengths and interests, neither learn how to choose and arrange different life activities.

<p>Common Expressions</p> <p>Nǐhǎo Hello!</p> <p>Nínhǎo Hello (polite)</p> <p>Zǎo Good morning (informal)</p> <p>Nǐ chī le ma? Have you eaten?</p> <p>Dàjiā hǎo Hello everybody!</p> <p>xiàwǔhǎo, or “Good afternoon”</p> <p>xiè xiè Thank you</p>	<p>Important Cultural & Religious Observances</p> <p>There is no “staff bathroom” concept in China, or staff bathroom will not appear in general instructional area at all.</p> <p>Students and their parents always hope them ace in all academic subjects, and a passing grade is barely acceptable. 80% grade should be improved to 90%, and 90% could be 95%.</p> <p>Teachers are expected to know everything in their professional areas in China.</p> <p>Graduation from high school is nothing big to Chinese families.</p>
<p>Tips for Communicating with the Student’s Family</p> <p>At parent meetings, parents are happy to hear all compliments given by teachers for their children, but they also hope to hear what children are not doing well yet and how to improve, even for the very top students. Parents also appreciate teachers help to identify the unique strength of their children.</p>	<p>Other Relevant Information</p> <p>Chinese New Year to Chinese is valued the same as Christmas to Canadians. Families are very upset when Chinese New Year falls in business days.</p>