



ISA STUDENT PROFILES 2021-22

Dear Parents of Lower Elementary 3 and Upper Elementary Students,

In February, your child participated in the International Schools' Assessment (ISA). The purpose of conducting these assessments is to enable schools to evaluate instructional programmes, measure growth in learning from year to year and consider individual student achievement. Over 70,000 students, from Grade 3 to Grade 10, at over 400 International Schools in all parts of the world complete the ISA assessment every year. Many other major international schools in Hong Kong participate, including ESF schools, CDNIS, CIS, HKA, VSA and many others.

Since we began the ISA assessments nine years ago, we have witnessed a steady improvement in our results. We are pleased to report that our IMS students continue to achieve at the equivalent or higher level compared to all other students at international schools worldwide. This reaffirms our commitment to offering a programme that supports all aspects of a child's development alongside preparation for future success, whether in Hong Kong or any other part of the world. This is despite over two years of learning affected by COVID19 and seeing a mixture of online and in-person curriculum delivery. As hard as this has been for everyone, it certainly reaffirms our belief that our online learning programme achieved a high level of quality given the circumstances.

The ISA assessments are administered in four areas - Reading, Mathematics, Expository Writing and Narrative Writing - for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 (or from Lower Elementary 3 to Upper Elementary 3), giving us 16 IMS mean benchmarks to compare to other Schools. In the last four years, IMS has continued to outperform the All Schools' mean and the Asia-Pacific Schools' mean in almost all these 16 benchmarks. Here are some of the highlights of this year's results:

- **Mathematics:** This year has seen exceptional results in Mathematics, with all year levels mean being at least 10% higher than the mean of their peers across all schools.
- **Reading:** Reading has been a consistent strength for IMS, with our mean consistently outperforming the All Schools' mean in every grade this has continued this year. We are especially proud of how we are catering to and extending advanced readers.
- **Writing:** The two forms of assessed writing (Exposition and Narrative) have been the most challenging to teach during our online learning periods. They rely heavily on students' ability to collaborate, review and reflect on both their and other people's writing. However, our results for Narrative writing show that our students continue to outperform the All School's mean in all grade levels, the creative nature of this form of writing has always been a strength of IMS students. So too, our results in Exposition show that our students outperformed the All School's mean in all grade levels.





- Our results continue to show that students with English as a Second or Additional Language perform significantly better at IMS than at other International Schools both in Asia and World Wide. This is a huge compliment to our Learning Support Programme and Classroom teachers, showing that we are truly an International School and that an authentic Montessori curriculum achieves excellent results for English Second Language learners.

While we do not want to place all focus for our students on standardised test results such as these, it does show us that we are achieving one aspect of what we set out to do every day when we welcome your children into their classrooms. Prepare them for a successful future. The data we gather from these standardised tests gives us essential insight into strengths and weaknesses within our curriculum while also giving us evidence that our classroom practices are effective. We continually hear from some of our closest secondary feeder schools that our students are continuously rated strongly as applicants when transitioning to them in either Grade 6 or Grade 7. The experience they gain through taking these standardised tests certainly helps them prepare for this transition. Finally and most importantly, this has also been achieved without compromising our belief in what our Montessori classroom pedagogy should be.

You can access your child's results in Mathematical Literacy, Reading and Writing in your Parent Portal DMS. Please take the time to review the explanatory notes on the first page. The central dark grey shaded band indicates the proficiency of the middle 50% of all students globally who took the assessment (i.e. 25% of the cohort achieved above this band and 25% below). The outer light grey shaded section covers those students who achieved between the 5th and 95th percentile (i.e. 5% of the cohort achieved above this band and 5% below). Your child's achievement is shown with a large black dot, with the knowledge and skills typical of a student at this level described in words alongside.

From these results, we glean information for each child and our school to see improvement from year to year and provide invaluable information for our teachers to better individualise the learning for your child. However, it is essential to remember that this assessment is just one measure from a wide range of assessment tools teachers and the school use to support and guide teaching and learning. These results should be viewed as a snapshot of how your child performed on these particular assessments on those specific days. It is important to consider these results in context with all the other information provided by your teacher. Furthermore, the ISA does not assess all of what makes your child special and unique. These assessments do not indicate that your child may speak two or more languages, have proficiency in the arts, be good at sport, be trustworthy, kind, thoughtful, or have a love of learning. All these things and more go towards developing a well-rounded young person.

If you have any questions or would like to follow up on any particular aspect, please arrange a time to meet with your teachers. Further information can also be found on the ACER website at <https://www.acer.org/au/isa>.

Warm regards,
Adam Broomfield
Head of Stanley Campus

Teresa Tsai
Elementary Programme Director