

SCHOOL PROFILE

A dynamic international IB World School for students in Pre-K to Grade 12





The Hong Kong Academy mission statement serves as a guidepost and foundation for all our efforts to provide exceptional educational opportunities to all learners.

Hong Kong Academy is a **dynamic learning community** that provides a **rigorous international education** characterized by mutual benefit and support. As an **educational leader**, HKA empowers learners to pursue **pathways to individual excellence** by fostering creativity, communication and problem-solving skills. HKA learners develop an evolving understanding of our changing world, leading them to engage in responsible action motivated by their interests, strengths and ongoing reflection. HKA is committed to maintaining a diverse, collaborative and **captivating learning environment** in which students become adaptable, confident and tolerant, equipping them for the **future**.



Welcome

As educators, we are surrounded with children and teenagers every day and have the joy of seeing the important milestones in students' lives. Whether it's the move from Primary School to Secondary School, making the team for the first time, or playing a new musical instrument, we have the privilege of nurturing children as they learn and grow.

As I enter my seventh year as Head of School at HKA, I've had the privilege of being a part of the school's own institutional milestones. Our Secondary School has grown significantly in recent years, and along with that, our offerings for students in Grades 6-12. We've expanded pathways for graduation, and in 2016, we became Hong Kong's first school to become a part of the Global Citizen Diploma Programme.

While HKA has changed over the years, the school has also remained essentially the same. We offer an inquiry-based, student-centred school which believes in educating the whole child. We are an inclusive school supporting pathways to individual excellence. We are a non-profit school with a governing Board of Trustees comprised of parents and former parents who volunteer their time as leaders in our community. Our stakeholders are our families, and most importantly, our students.

Please visit us at HKA. Our dynamic learning community is eager to welcome you.

Warmly,

Stephen Dare - Head of School

Overview

Hong Kong Academy is an independent, international, non-profit, co-educational day school for students ages 3 - 18. Founded in 2000, HKA offers the International Baccalaureate Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma Programmes. The school's globally-sourced curriculum is inquiry-based and concept-driven, providing a well-rounded, student-centred programme. Small class sizes and a low student:teacher ratio allow for individualised attention and the ability to meet the needs of accelerated learners as well as students requiring learner support.

Accreditations & Authorisations

Council of International Schools (CIS)
International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO)
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Memberships

Association of China and Mongolia International Schools (ACAMIS)
East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools (EARCOS)
Global Citizen Diploma (GCD)
Next Frontier: Inclusion (NFI)



FIVE CORE VALUES OF HONG KONG ACADEMY



Rigorous and Inclusive International Education

In educational circles today, you'll hear a lot of talk about rigour. But what does rigour mean in practice? At HKA, rigour takes tangible form in students who are able to understand complex problems and respond to ambiguous dilemmas. At HKA, we challenge students to stretch beyond their comfort zones and take action that is grounded in what they find both personally and globally relevant.

Inclusion is an important aspect of rigour at HKA. At HKA, students with learning needs, language acquisition support needs and/or those receiving enriched offerings all learn in the same classroom. We believe that all students learn more effectively when they learn together in an environment that reflects the world at large. At HKA, approximately 15% of the student population receives some form of Learner or English Language Support.

Captivating Learning Environment

HKA's 630+ students, from ages 3 to 18, all learn on one campus. Located in the seaside town of Sai Kung, easily accessible from Hong Kong Island either by school bus or public transport, the school's 23,700 meter square building has earned a provisional BEAM+ platinum rating for its environmentally sustainable design and features. Floor to ceiling windows provide abundant natural light, and outdoor spaces include a landscaped courtyard, sports pitch, multi-use court and green roof.

In addition, HKA's 358 seat theatre features state of the art theatre technology, and the Studio Theatre allows for black box style productions. Music, dance and rehearsal rooms support instruction in the performing arts, and an advanced technology environment enhances student learning through purposeful use. The school's gymnasium seats over 600, and HKA frequently hosts tournaments, local debate competitions, and other educational and cultural events.

Pathways to Individual Excellence

All parents and guardians know that no two children are alike, and at HKA, we believe that diversity, grounded in mutual respect, enhances learning for all. With this in mind, HKA supports every student in his or her own pathway to individual excellence through differentiated instruction.

Small class sizes and low student:teacher ratios facilitate individualised attention. In the Primary School, each grade has two classes of 22 students each (44 per grade level) with a minimum of two teachers in each classroom. In the Secondary School, the capacity rises to 66 students per grade level.

Dynamic Community of Learners

Students, faculty, staff and parents alike comprise HKA's dynamic community of learners. Our families come from all over the world, with no one single nationality representing a majority.

Like HKA's students, the school's faculty hail from all over the globe. Recruited principally from Australasia, North America, Europe and China, HKA's teachers are selected for their enthusiasm for HKA's mission, professional qualifications, creativity and skill in the classroom, teaching experience and international-mindedness. At HKA, teachers are learners, too, and the school places strong emphasis on learning and growth. Weekly on-campus professional development opportunities allow for faculty to expand their knowledge.

Parents are also active members of the campus community, giving generously of their time, talent and treasure. Parent volunteers serve in many capacities, enriching the life of the school on many levels. A friendly and social community, HKA parents also plan and participate in outings and events for themselves and for families.



Educational Leadership

Just as HKA is a community of learners, the school is also a member of the broader independent education community. HKA invites experts from around the world to present to faculty at in-house professional development workshops, and often these same experts make presentations for parents as well. HKA's faculty and staff present at and attend conferences, both to learn and to share knowledge with others. A high percentage hold advanced degrees and/or are pursuing further education. The school's faculty and administration also routinely collaborate and converse with leading educational institutions and organisations, engage thought leaders in education and mentor other educational professionals.

YOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT AT HKA



A typical week in the Primary School includes learning related to the current Unit of Inquiry, instruction in Mandarin, and special classes in physical education, music, art and library. Technology is integrated with all classroom learning. In the Early Childhood classes, co-teachers are Mandarin speakers, and Mandarin is incorporated into daily routines. In Kindergarten through Grade 5, students receive Mandarin instruction four to five times a week for a total of 200 minutes per week. HKA's Mandarin curriculum uses simplified characters.

One of the first schools in Hong Kong to adopt the PYP curriculum, HKA made this choice because of the PYP's emphasis on personal growth as well as academic attainment. Learning happens everywhere at HKA in both formal and informal environments, whether on the playground, during team sports, or clearing up after lunch in the canteen. We value these experiences as vital for developing friendships and interpersonal skills. Learning outside the classroom promotes creative questioning, meaningful exploration of concepts, resilience and curiosity. With this in mind, we provide students with diverse environments that extend beyond dynamic learning and play areas. We actively plan classrooms where students are exposed to and embrace differences in culture, language, ethnicity, learning styles, family blend and life experiences.

HKA learners and teachers are supported by a leadership team comprised of our Principal, Assistant Principal/PYP Coordinator, Counsellor, Director of Learner Support and Curriculum Specialists in maths and literacy.

YOUR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT AT HKA



Secondary School at Hong Kong Academy encompasses Grades 6-12. Students in Grades 6-10 follow the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. In Grades 11 and 12, many students pursue the full IB Diploma Programme, and other options are available for students who prefer a different pathway to graduation.

While the curriculum is geared to Grades 6-10 and 11-12, HKA is mindful of the social-emotional development of adolescents and often defines student activities for Grades 6-8 separately from Grades 9-12. A Secondary School Principal and two Assistant Secondary School Principals work directly with those groups of students. The Secondary School Leadership Team also includes curriculum coordinators and socio-emotional and university counsellors. The Secondary School leadership work closely with the Learner Support Team to ensure inclusive education.

Student Leadership and Co-Curricular Activities

At HKA we encourage students to seek out and take on leadership opportunities. Faculty members actively support students as they develop their leadership potential, find their voices, participate in decision-making, and understand their rights and responsibilities at HKA and beyond the classroom. Students from Grades 6-12 can join and lead both new and established groups and teams including: Battle of the Books, Debate and Public Speaking, Events, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Global Issues Network, PR and Media Team, Student Council, Student Voices Digital Blog Team, and Student Organisation for Sustainability.



Course Offerings for Grades 6 – 12

GRADES 6-10

IB Middle Years Programme Courses

English Language and Literature

Language Acquisition

Mandarin

Spanish

French (only available in Grades 8-10)

Individuals and Societies

Sciences

Mathematics

Arts

Drama

Music

Visual Arts

Physical and Health Education

Design

GRADES 11-12 IB Diploma Programme Courses

Group 1: Language and Literature

English A, Language & Literature: HL, SL

English A, Literature: HL, SL,

Group 2: Language Acquisition

Mandarin B: HL, SL

Mandarin ab initio

Spanish B: SL, HL

French B: SL, HL (self-taught)

Group 3: Individuals & Societies

Economics: HL, SL

History: HL, SL

Business Management: HL, SL (online)

Psychology (online)

Information Technology in a Global Society (online)

Group 4: Experimental Sciences

Biology: HL, SL

Chemistry: HL, SL

Physics: HL, SL

Design: HL, SL

Group 5: Mathematics

Mathematics: HL, SL

Mathematical Studies SL

Group 6: Arts

Theatre: HL

Visual Arts: HL

GRADES 9-12 High School Courses

English

Humanities

Science

Theatre

Visual Arts

High School level courses complement the IB Programme courses to fulfil the HKA Diploma graduation requirements. In addition to HKA's course offerings, students also have the opportunity to participate in specialised internships on campus.

HL = Higher Level

SL = Standard Level

Diploma Pathways at HKA

HKA's Secondary School prides itself on mentoring students to reach their full potential through individualised instruction tailored to their skills, interests and aspirations. Faculty members are dedicated to students' well-being and academic success and take the time to guide and support them as they make key decisions that impact their futures. Wherever their individual pathways to success may take them, HKA endeavours to help students identify, develop and realize their goals.

Secondary School Students at HKA may select one of three Diploma Pathways:

- Pathway 1: HKA Diploma (U.S. high school based diploma)
- Pathway 2: HKA Diploma with up to six IB Certificates
- Pathway 3: HKA Diploma with full IB Diploma





Secondary School students at HKA participate in a wide variety of sports and co-curricular activities. At HKA, we believe that learning outside the classroom is as important as learning in class, and students are encouraged to participate in activities that are meaningful to them.

Athletics

HKA athletes participate in two local leagues and two travel team leagues:

ISSHKF - Grades 6-12

- Athletics/Track and Field
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Volleyball

SCISAC - travel team, Grades 6-8

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer

ACAMIS - travel team, Grades 9-12

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer

Hong Kong Junior Netball League - Grades 4-12

- Netball

After School Activities (ASAs)

ASAs at HKA are offered to HKA students currently enrolled in the Primary (from K) and Secondary schools. ASAs are offered four days per week throughout the school year. They provide students with opportunities to learn, explore, experience and find the right fit for their individual interests. Our varied After School Activity programme includes competitive and noncompetitive sports, visual and performing arts, academic extension and homework club and interest-based activities such as Brownies, dance, film-making, golf, Minecraft, parkour, and Yearbook Team. Different activities are open to various grade levels.

Service Learning

In keeping with the school's mission, values and purpose, HKA promotes lifelong learning for the entire community – students, faculty and parents alike. Through service, learners develop an evolving understanding of our changing world, leading them to engage in responsible action.



HKA students are offered a number of opportunities in both the Primary School and the Secondary School to develop their understanding and experience of what it means to be a responsible global citizen. Service learning opportunities are both embedded into the curriculum and offered outside the classroom.

Sustainability

HKA's commitment to sustainable practice is visible throughout the school, most notably in our curriculum, energy usage and monitoring on campus, building materials, procurement processes and choices and community activities. Whether in the garden, participating in a local clean up effort or recycling and composting, students from Pre-K through Grade 12 contribute to the school's sustainability strategy and experience our campus as an authentic learning lab. As part of being an educational leader, HKA is also committed to being an environmentally responsible member of the broader community.

Extended Learning at HKA

In addition to After School Activities available for formally enrolled students, HKA offers Extended Learning Seasonal Programmes for both HKA students and students not formally enrolled at HKA. These programmes take place in the summer, winter and spring school recesses. For more information, please visit 'Extended Learning' on our HKA website. Course offerings and lengths vary. In addition, our Live@HKA Programme includes cultural and educational events offered by organizations from Hong Kong and around the world.



GLOBAL HKA

Alumni

Hong Kong Academy will graduate its 6th class in 2017. HKA alumni pursue tertiary education and employment around the world. To see a list of offers of admission, matriculations and more detailed HKA student IB exam results, check out our Academic Profile on our website at www.hkacademy.edu.hk/hkaprofiles.

Global Family Network

As with all international schools, families frequently move on from HKA before students graduate. HKA's global community includes an active network of families around the world who gather for events and serve as ambassadors for incoming, relocating and repatriating HKA families. We stay connected through alumni newsletters, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Diversity of Students and Faculty

We celebrate the diversity of cultures and nationalities that comprise our community of learners and educators and value the differences that they bring to HKA.



QR code for HKA website.

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

Africa	3	Europe	230	North America	183
■ South Africa		■ Austria		■ Canada	
Asia	147	■ Belgium		■ Mexico	
■ Bangladesh		■ Denmark		■ United States	
■ China		■ Finland		South America	5
■ Hong Kong		■ France		■ Argentina	
■ India		■ Germany		■ Brazil	
■ Indonesia		■ Ireland		■ Colombia	
■ Israel		■ Italy		Total Students	636
■ Japan		■ Netherlands			
■ Korea		■ Portugal			
■ Lebanon		■ Spain			
■ Malaysia		■ Sweden			
■ Nepal		■ Switzerland			
■ Pakistan		■ United Kingdom			
■ Philippines		Oceania	68		
■ Russia		■ Australia			
■ Singapore		■ New Zealand			
■ Taiwan					
■ Thailand					

FACULTY FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

At HKA, faculty come from all around the world, with many holding advanced degrees. All faculty continue to engage in professional development, either attending or presenting at global conferences each year.



Hong Kong Academy invites you to learn more about our programmes and offerings. Please visit our website, hkacademy.edu.hk, or schedule a tour of our campus.

Our Admissions Office would be more than happy to speak with you. To arrange a visit, email admissions@hkacademy.edu.hk.



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