



## Community Update #25 – July 24

Dear SCIS Community,

I hope this email finds you in good health and enjoying the summer holiday. This letter serves as a mid-summer update regarding several important details as we set our sights on the start of the 2020-21 school year. Please review the information provided below:

### SCIS Start Date

In adherence to the recent announcement from the Shanghai Education Commission (SEC) and in line with the information shared in June, I now confirm September 1 as our official first day of school for Nursery to Grade 12. We believe the decision to align school start dates across Shanghai was made to ensure consistent government health and safety oversight and support.

### 2020 – 2021 Calendar

Please follow [this link](#) to our updated 2020-21 SCIS school year calendar. As noted in my earlier messages, the three-week delay from our original August 11 start date has resulted in a shift of holidays. Please note that despite the three-week delay, this calendar maintains the same number of Board mandated school contact days (180) as all previous school years.

### General Information:

- We appreciate our many families outside of China remaining in contact on their return status and are pleased to know there is a growing trend of pathways for their return to China. Along these lines, though we have only a small percentage of faculty outside of China, we are very pleased to have also received approval for a process that will see their return to Shanghai as well. While we are well prepared for our on-campus start of the school year, we are thrilled to have our community of faculty and families on their way back to Shanghai.
- Shanghai schools, including SCIS, have been approved for an on-campus return to school, though the specific requirements have yet to be shared (i.e., QR Codes, temperature checks, Health declaration forms, etc.). We will communicate both the government and our health and safety protocols for our return to campus as we draw closer to the school year's start.



- One important requirement that has been recently clarified is the expectation that all household members must remain inside Shanghai city limits for 14 days prior to the start of the school year. This means all faculty, staff, students, and their family members living within the same household ***must remain in Shanghai from August 17 through to our September 1 start date.***
- There are also higher restrictions, including centralized and/or home-based quarantine for those that have traveled to high and medium risk regions within China or that are returning from overseas. We await further clarification from our governing authorities on these requirements and will share further details once available.
- Virtual Learning:
  - We will continue to support the educational needs of our enrolled students outside of China through the provision of a high-quality virtual learning program.
  - In the event of a government-mandated campus closure, we will also remain ready to shift to a school-wide virtual learning program.

I believe we all share the hope that the Covid-19 virus will soon be under control around the globe; unfortunately, we are not there yet. As such, it is upon us all to remain informed, prepared, and to continue to do all we can to reduce the risk within our community. The start of our school year will be unlike all others before. We will continue to face unique challenges that will keep us out of our routines and common experiences. I remain confident that as a community, SCIS will continue to move in the direction of care, support, and understanding, just as we did last school year.

This will be our 25th first day of school at SCIS, and despite the challenges we continue to face, I know it will remain a special and joyous occasion. Together, we are a resilient, caring, and learning-focused community. This is what has led to our success for the past 25 years and will continue to fuel our efforts for this school year and each one thereafter.

I look forward to connecting with you again in the weeks ahead as we continue our path toward the start of the 2020-21 school year.



Sincerely,

Daniel D. Eschtruth  
Director of Schools  
**Shanghai Community International School**  
1161 Hongqiao Road, Shanghai, China 200051  
Phone: 86-21-6261-4338  
Website: [www.scis-china.org](http://www.scis-china.org)