




yantai huasheng
international school

A LifePlus® International School

Our annual report 2023-24



Learn, love, lead...
Building the
future together
**Our annual
report 2023-24**

From our Head of School

Review of last year

At Yantai Huasheng International School, we are committed to inspiring learners to make a life-changing difference for the common good.

Dear Yantai Community,

2024 was the first full Covid-free year since 2018. Our student enrollment peaked at 280 and grew in certain national demographics. We are thankful for the new students from around the world that are now part of the YHIS Community. I am incredibly thankful for the relationships built with the students in and out of the classroom and proud of the growth they have experienced academically, socially and emotionally.

We remain a community grateful for the support of staff, outstanding students and parents who were committed to making the Yantai community more vibrant and inclusive. I cannot say enough good things about our PTO and their efforts to unite our community and bless the greater Yantai community in gift giving.

I am especially grateful for the dedication and collaboration of our staff. It is fantastic to come to school knowing that every staff member, regardless of nationality, loves the students and wants them to succeed in life.

We are grateful for the support of our local authorities who aided us in bringing in new foreign staff. We are building up our students to take on roles of leadership to better serve in whatever career path they choose. We want students to be leaders in more than name only. We continued to develop a personalized learning program using various technologies.

With more students, we were also able to increase our course offerings. We continued our

partnership with LifePlus Online Academy and the use of APEX courses to fulfill our vision of online learning for our high school students. The International Day celebration, parent-teacher conferences, dramas, concerts, etc. were all successes because of your continued commitment and support. We owe our success in large part to the families we serve.

With warmest regards,

Elliot Miller
Head of School



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Growing up in Yantai

A brief history



2016

Small beginnings

As Yantai Huasheng International School, we became Yantai’s first English language international school licensed by the Shandong Provincial Government, opening our doors in August 2016.

2018

Putting our expertise to the test

We became a College Board testing center, offering the SAT Suite of Assessments, which includes the PSAT8/9, PSAT10, NMSQT and SAT exams.

2022

Open for the community

We became an HSK testing center, and the only testing center in the entire city of Yantai able to offer HSK testing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019

Recognized for excellence

We earn our first accreditation, AdvancED (now known as Cognia).



Part of the LifePlus family

Accreditation



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 Yantai more than a local school, connecting us to a worldwide network of talent, knowledge and support. To learn more, visit lifeplusworldwide.com

Yantai Huasheng International School 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.



- 1 Tianjin International School
tiseagles.com
- 2 Yantai Huasheng International School
yhischina.com
- 3 International School of Qingdao
isqchina.com
- 4 Wuhan Yangtze International School
wyischina.com
- 5 Chengdu International School
cdischina.com
- 6 The WellSpring Private School
tws-rak.org

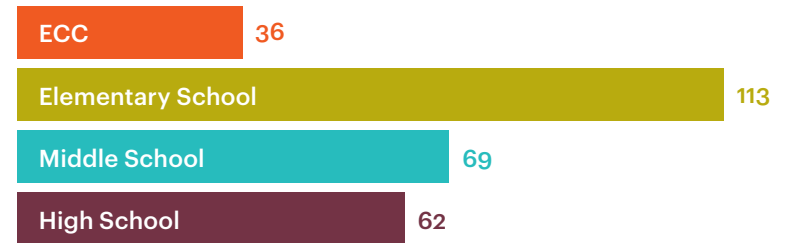
Who we are

Demographics

Student population

280

Total enrollment



Student nationalities

15

Passport countries include Australia, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, USA, UK and more

Teachers

86

Passport countries include Canada, China, Finland, France, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, USA and Zambia

Average years of teaching experience

11 years

Teacher: Student ratio

1:3

Average class size

16

ECC × 12
Elementary School × 23
Middle School × 14
High School × 16

Post baccalaureate studies

39%

4% of our teachers and staff have a Doctorate, 35% of our teachers and staff have a master degree

What we do and why

Our values

At Yantai Huasheng, we desire for our students to grow in more than knowledge. That's why we spend time and great care investing in character education for all our students. The LifePlus 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.*

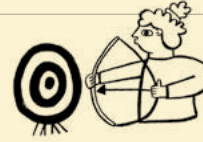


People who lead

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

Early Childhood Center (ECC) highlights

The ECC experienced transitions and new staff as Mrs. Monique Wessels moved from teaching 5th grade to teaching kindergarten. Ms. Lordelle Lim moved to Junior Kindergarten and YHIS welcomed Mrs. Andrea Cayetano to Foundations. A hallmark of the ECC is the lively classes marked by exploration and learning through play.

“Yantai Huasheng provides students with comprehensive international education and a pleasant learning environment. The students are engaged, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential by the teachers. Here they learn to love and love to learn.”
Parent of alum

Reading Buddies and Mystery Reader

The ECC continued the tradition of pairing with an upper elementary school class for Reading buddies. This is where older students read to younger students. A weekly Mystery Reader reads to the whole ECC once a week. This mystery reader could be a parent, administrator, high school student, or teacher from a different school division.



Pumpkin Decorating Day

In celebration of the fall season and a time of thankfulness, students had a fun-filled time decorating pumpkins with their parents.

ECC Field Day

ECC Field Day was a fantastic success. The fifth-grade students did an outstanding job leading their younger peers through a range of engaging activities, including an Obstacle Course, a Parachute Game, and an Egg and Spoon Race, all hosted by their fifth-grade classmates. Students, parents and teachers alike shared moments of joy, laughter and applause as our students demonstrated exceptional teamwork and sportsmanship.



Elementary highlights

This school year marked a return to normalcy for the Elementary School. For the first time since the 2018–19 school year, we were able to hold all events with parents present. The Elementary School students participated in a Science Fair, Reading Fair and Field Day. Many students in Upper Elementary participated in the Math Olympiad, and students from every grade level took part in the Math Kangaroo competition. Individual classes held Student Led Conferences to show to parents growth that has occurred in learning. Other grades invited parents in for presentation and to celebrate writing achievements and science projects.

The Elementary School welcomed two new teachers this year. Ms. Beulah Camain in Second Grade and Mrs. Loraine Pachai in Fourth Grade. Both teachers bring a wealth of experience to their classrooms and school.

Each Month a student from each grade was recognized as the Student of the Month. The students chosen to exemplify that month's character trait.



Elementary Science Fair

All Elementary students participated in the Elementary Fair and did a fantastic job presenting their findings. Prior to the fair, not only did they do the background research over a few weeks, but they also made colorful and informative posters. It was a meaningful learning experience for the students and a time of celebration for their work.

ECC & Elementary Talent Show

ECC and Elementary students held the 5th annual talent show on Friday, October 20. Performances included singing, piano, instruments, dancing, and a magic show. It was a great celebration of the talents of our students.



Elementary Literacy Month

To celebrate literacy, the Elementary School hosted its annual Literacy Fair on Friday, March 29. The 3rd–5th grade students showcased aspects of a book they read on a display board. The 2nd grade presented a Reader's Theater, while the 1st grade hosted a Reader's Café. The Literacy Fair is always an exciting time, not only because students get to share their favorite books, but also because they get to read and analyze the books in-depth. Every student who participates takes something away from it. We hope that the students continue to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Elementary Field Day

The Elementary Field Day kicked off with thrilling races like the 50-meter and 100-meter dash. Teams formed of students from each grade, guided by high school students, competed at various teacher-led stations. Students, parents and teachers alike shared moments of joy, laughter, and applause as our students demonstrated exceptional teamwork and sportsmanship.

Secondary highlights

In secondary school, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of academic activities that can enrich their educational experience and help them develop valuable skills for the future. Engaging in extracurricular activities can, not only make your time in secondary school more enjoyable, but also boost your college applications and future career prospects.

AP Exams

One exciting opportunity available to secondary school students was participating in AP Exams. Advanced Placement courses offer college-level curriculum and exams, allowing students to challenge themselves academically and potentially earn college credit. By excelling in AP Exams, students demonstrate their readiness for college-level work and stand out in the college admissions process.

PSAT + SAT Exams

Another important academic milestone for secondary school students is taking the PSAT and SAT exams. These standardized tests assess students' readiness for college and provide valuable practice for the college admissions process. This year, we opened the PSAT to Grade 8 students as well. By preparing for and performing well on these exams, students can improve their chances of gaining admission to their desired colleges and universities.

Math Kangaroo Competition

For students who enjoy mathematics, the Kangaroo Math Competition was an exciting opportunity to test their problem-solving skills and compete with peers on a national and international level. Our students won several prizes and some even qualified for summer Math Camps in China and Europe.

Creative Writing Contest

Secondary school is also a great time to explore creative writing through events like our 4th annual Yantai Creative Writing Contest. Engaging in creative writing allows students to express themselves, hone their communication skills, and unleash their creativity. Competing in writing contests provides a platform for students to showcase their talent and receive recognition for their literary abilities.

Student Council

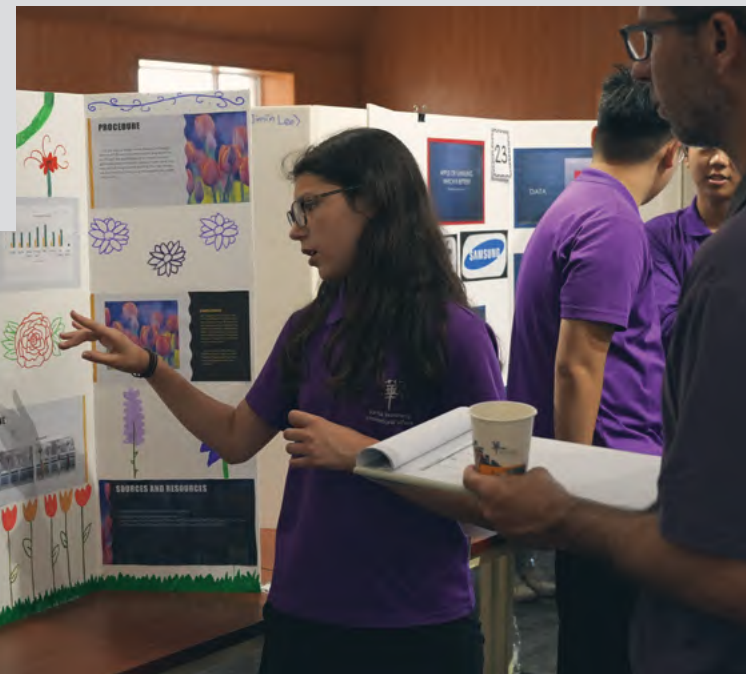
Furthermore, secondary school offers various leadership opportunities such as joining the High School Student Council or Middle School Student Council. Serving on a student council allows students to develop leadership skills, advocate for their peers, and make a positive impact on their school community. By taking on leadership roles, students can learn valuable lessons in teamwork, communication and decision-making.

STEM

For students interested in STEM fields, robotics competitions and science fairs provide an exciting platform to apply their knowledge and creativity. Competing in robotics competitions allows students to design, build and program robots to complete specific challenges, fostering teamwork and innovation.

Science Fair

Participating in science fairs enables students to conduct experiments, analyze data and present their findings to a wider audience, nurturing their passion for scientific inquiry. Moreover, high school students can aim for prestigious competitions like the China regional Intel Science Fair. Competing in science fairs at a regional or international level provides students with the opportunity to showcase their research, gain valuable feedback from experts, and connect with peers who share their passion for science and innovation. Such competitions enhance students' critical thinking skills, research abilities, and scientific knowledge, preparing them for future academic and professional success.



A year of connection, courage and compassion

We love

Character education

Character Development is a course which is meant to address the key questions adolescents have. To do this, the students learn about topics such as worldview, identity, leadership and conflict and reconciliation to understand themselves and the world around them. This year the students have been studying these themes through different types of assignments, such as group work, projects, novel reading and self-reflective drawings. These activities allow them to be creative while being able to learn in a way that best works for them. One of the most interesting assignments was 8th grade's proposal project during the second semester. In groups the students came up with ideas for improving our school. The finalized ideas were forwarded to the Student Council and secondary principal for review. Through this process the students realized, on a practical level, the challenges of making changes.



“Even with the whole Covid situation keeping us locked down... I got into all sorts of events and activities right on campus—tons of activities and events that let me hang out with an awesome mix of friends.”
Chewon H, alum

Counseling department

At Yantai Huasheng International School, we understand the significance of providing social-emotional counseling services to our students. We believe that a holistic approach to education not only focuses on academic success but also on nurturing students' well-being and mental health. Through our counseling services, we aim to create a safe and supportive environment where students can explore their thoughts and emotions. We offer individual counseling sessions where students can confidentially discuss any challenges they may be facing, whether it's related to academics, personal relationships, or self-esteem. Additionally, we are committed to creating a positive and inclusive environment for all students. Every November,

we actively participate in Anti-Bullying Week to raise awareness about the importance of respect, kindness and empathy within our school community. Through counseling sessions, assemblies, interactive activities, and open discussions in advisories, we aim to foster a culture of acceptance and understanding where every student feels valued and supported. We believe that by promoting empathy and standing up against bullying, we can create a safer and more compassionate campus for everyone.

A year of humility, persistence and service

We lead

PTO

A strong, supportive parent community has always been a defining feature of Yantai Huasheng International School. The purpose of the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is to enrich the educational experience of children by nurturing relationships among the school, parents and teachers. We strive for all PTO activities to align with our school-wide learning outcomes: Learn, Love, Lead. From decorating the school for Christmas, organizing the annual PTO Christmas Market and Teacher Appreciation Day, assisting with International Day and contributing to Career Day presentations, to judging a Talent Show and an Art Competition, our parents generously devote their time and expertise to enhance our students' experiences. Today, parents remain a vital part of what truly defines our community school.

STEM

The purpose of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education lies in fostering connections. Our STEM program provides interdisciplinary study that engages students in thinking deeply about subjects, demonstrating their prior knowledge and collaborating with one another to achieve learning goals. We also monitor students' understanding and offer learning opportunities that help them take control of their studies. To support students in becoming independent learners with competency in technology, we use various learning platforms: VEX Robotics, 3D Printing Skills, C Language, Python, Blockly (Scratch) and more.

In 2024, we had the opportunity to compete in the VEX IQ Robotics competition in Wuhan and the VEX V5 Robotics competition in Tianjin. Each competition featured over 30 teams from more than 8 international schools across China. Despite the intense competition, our MS VEX IQ team achieved the Create Award.



Student Services

Reflecting on the 2023–24 academic year, the Student Services Department at Yantai focused on enhancing student well-being through various initiatives. Social-emotional counseling played a crucial role, offering a safe space for students to express their feelings. Anti-Bullying Week raised awareness about the importance of respect, kindness and empathy within our school community. College counseling remained a priority, providing personalized support for students navigating the complex path to higher education, from college

applications to scholarship guidance. Additionally, the Learning Support Program ensured inclusivity by offering tailored resources for students with diverse learning needs, fostering academic success for all.

Promoting student wellness, the Health Services Team emphasized wellness through education and personalized care, covering routine check-ups and mental health resources. After-school activities provided a platform for students to engage in extracurricular pursuits, fostering creativity and personal growth. Fall camps offered a unique opportunity for students to build resilience and foster friendships. Secondary students also had the chance to participate in cultural trips. These experiences fostered a sense of community, expanded cultural awareness, and created unforgettable memories. Career Day offered insights into different professions, inspiring students to envision their career paths. The 2023–24 academic year was a testament to our commitment to enhancing student life and fostering holistic development. Here's to another year of growth, learning and success!

A year of arts, athletics and activities

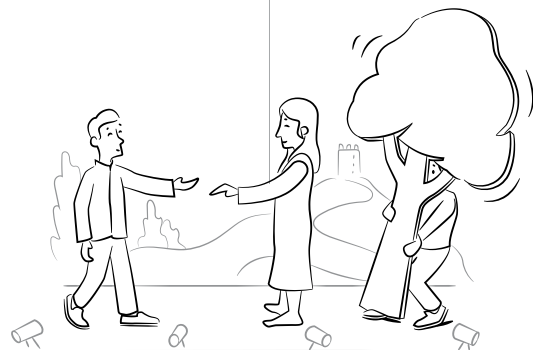
Extra-curricular

Music

The music program continually grows, finding new ways for students to use their creativity.

ECC and elementary music classes involve learning a variety of ways to perform, create and respond to music. Students work towards developing music literacy, integrating movement and learning a variety of musical styles. Additionally, students learn to read music notation and play various instruments such as xylophones, boomwhackers and hand drums. Fifth graders learned to play the recorder and all upper elementary grades have been focusing on singing with good vocal technique. The ECC and elementary students gave two great performances this year at the Christmas Concert and Spring Concert.

Our secondary music program also continues to grow and thrive. With the expansion of choir classes this year, many middle school students had the opportunity to participate in choir. Our accomplished high school choir also worked hard this year to prepare challenging music. The band program also expanded this year with an advanced band class for high school students. A beginning band course for high school students was also offered, along with middle school band classes. In total, 80 students had the opportunity to participate in band class this year. Choir and band classes held a Christmas Concert and Spring Concert demonstrating their accomplishments.



Drama

This year, we continued to develop the drama department with the addition of more productions, class offerings, and materials. Students worked towards developing confidence with speaking and performing in front of an audience, to improve their English pronunciation and to learn some basic acting techniques. In their drama classes, students prepared short

plays to give at the end of each semester. Outside of class, two large productions were held which involved many students. In December, our first fall play: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was held in the large theater. In April, we held our second annual spring musical: *Cinderella's Glass Slipper*. We have been excited to see the development of the drama department and look forward to its future.



Visual Arts

Visual arts classes have continued to offer a variety of topics and skills for students. Our classes cover topics like the Function & Purpose of Art, Art Styles and the basic Elements of Art and Principles of Design. All secondary art classes were studio-based, so students experimented with a variety of art media like printing, painting, digital drawing, sculpting and 3D printing. Our secondary art students participated in a company-wide art competition throughout all LifePlus schools. 1st and 2nd place awards were given to students from our school: Ely Cho (Grade 11) and Faith Than (Grade 12). We are proud of each student's accomplishments throughout the year.

Fine Arts Festival

This spring, we sent 21 high school students to the 19th annual LifePlus Fine Arts Festival. Students participated in choir, band, art and drama throughout the weekend with students from other LifePlus schools. There were various activities and workshops that helped students refine their musical, theatrical and artistic skills. Our students' participation was a great demonstration of their achievement in arts classes throughout the school year.

How we measure up

Standardized test results

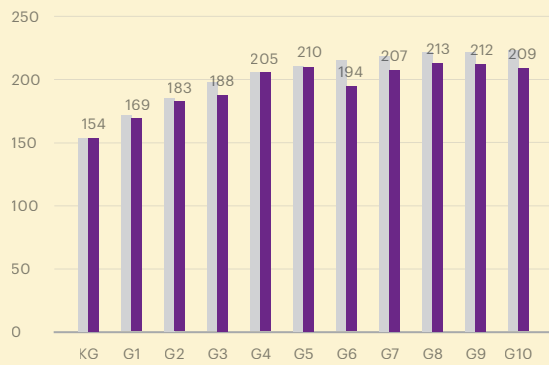
MAP® (Measures of Academic Progress)

Aligning with the LifePlus-adopted AERO standards, MAP® Growth™ assessments serve more than 13 million students in the USA and abroad. The subject specific assessments measure both student achievement and growth in math, reading, language usage and science.

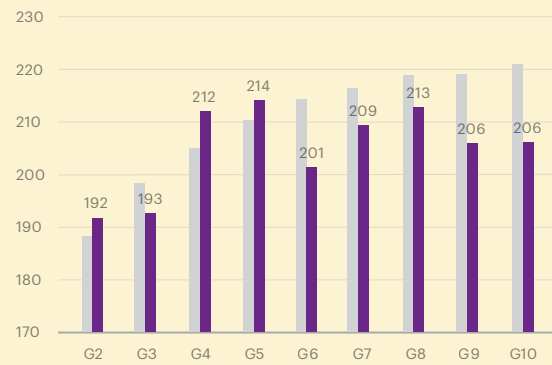
At Yantai Huasheng International School, MAP® Growth™ assessments in reading and math are taken by students in Kindergarten through Grade 10. Students in Grades 2–10 are also tested in language usage, and students in Grades 3–10 are tested in science.

● Yantai Huasheng International School mean ● USA mean

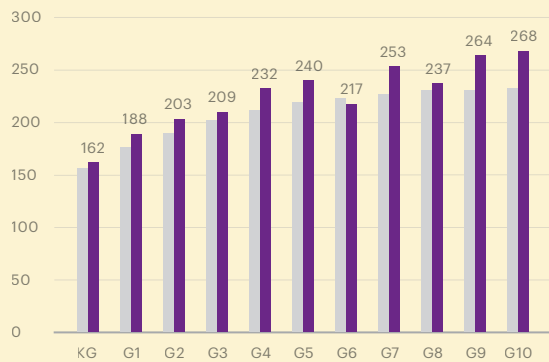
MAP Growth® average reading scores



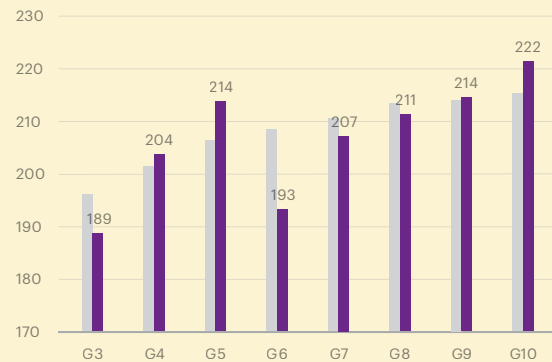
MAP Growth® average language usage scores



MAP Growth® average math scores



MAP Growth® average science scores



AP® (Advanced Placement)

College Board’s AP® program provides high school students with university-level curricula and exams. Universities worldwide consider AP scores in student acceptance, and many universities offer course credits to students with test scores of 3 or higher.

This profile highlights Yantai Huasheng International School’s average score on each 2024 subject-area AP exam, comparing it to the LifePlus schools’ 5-year average and the 2023 global average.

● Yantai Huasheng International School ● LifePlus 5-year ● 2023 Global

2024 AP® exam results



SAT® (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

The SAT is a College Board standardized test widely used for college admissions that measures a student’s writing, critical reading, and mathematics skills. Students may take the test as often as they like throughout their high school careers and submit their highest scores to universities.

Yantai Huasheng International School reports the highest average scores of 11th and 12th graders compared to the average scores of all LifePlus schools in China and the global average.

2024 SAT® average

	Total	Math	Reading and writing
Yantai Huasheng International School	1,387	739	648
LifePlus China	1,351	709	642
Global	1,050	520	530

Next steps on the learning journey

University acceptances

Students at Yantai Huasheng International School and other schools in the LifePlus family, have been accepted at colleges and universities this academic year including:

Australia

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
University of Melbourne
University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney)
University of Sydney

Canada

McMaster University
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Toronto
Western University

China

Chinese University of Hong Kong
HKUST (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

Czech Republic

Czech Technical University

France

Rennes School of Business

South Korea

Ewha Womans University

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)
Korea University
Seoul National University
Sungkyunkwan University
Yonsei University

Singapore

National University of Singapore (NUS) - Computer Science
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
Nanyang Technological University (Nofa)

UAE

American University RAK
American University Sharjah
RAK Medical
UAE University
University of Sharjah

UK

Goldsmith University London
Kingston University
Loughborough University
University of Glasgow
University of Manchester

USA

American University
Art Center College of Design (California)
Asbury University
Belmont University
Biola University
Boston University
Cairn University
California College of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Cedarville University
Eastern University
Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech)
Grand Canyon University
Iowa State University
Kansas City Art Institute
Los Angeles College of Music
Messiah University
Michigan State University
Mississippi College
Montana State University
Mt. San Antonio College
New York University (NYU)
North Texas University
Northeastern University
Parsons School of Design
Pennsylvania State University

Pratt Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rutgers University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts (New York)
Temple University
The Ohio State University
UC Berkeley
University of California, (Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego and Santa Barbara)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland
University of Pittsburgh
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Washington
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech
Washington University

Investing in the common good

Financial summary, 2023–24

80%



for academics and personnel

All costs associated with learning resources, textbooks, field trips and technology for learning as well as hiring, retaining and professionally developing our staff.

6%



for administration

Administrative costs include our school's technology, equipment and other managerial and support expenditures.

6%



for operations

Day-to-day operational expenses, such as utilities, lease and maintenance.

8%



for LifePlus district services

Costs associated with LifePlus district services such as special needs support, English learning support programs, curriculum development and student well-being programs.



How we intend to grow

Our goals for 2024-25

Growing together next year

1

Expand our reach on enrollments to multiple countries and nationalities.

2

Adjust and refine the curriculum, assessment, and instruction based on current data.

3

Target programs to specifically develop student wellbeing and equip teachers and support staff to enhance student wellbeing.

4

Explore and leverage current and potential partnerships to positively impact our community.



Celebrating Connection through Service in our Yantai Community

To strengthen our relationships in the community and to create platforms for our students, teachers, and parents to practically demonstrate our LifePlus Quality of Service, this year saw the birth of a dedicated Community Service Team (CST).

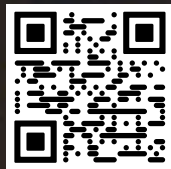
Building on previous engagements with SOS Children's Village, the team

together with the leadership of SOS Village explored ways to positively impact the lives of children at the village by exposing them to opportunities to learn or improve their competencies in the English language.

In partnership with Yantai Yangfan Student Welfare Development Center, which focuses on aiding and supporting students with special needs and their families. Our community service team, together with teachers, parents and students spent time at the center with the students this year while our school's PTO was able to help meet their physical needs with donations.

As we look forward to the new year, our Community Service Team has set a strategic goal to assist the Yantai Yangfan Student Welfare Development Center to equip another 2 centers in Yantai.





Learn more at
yhischina.com

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