



Stamford American
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



PREPARATORY COURSE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

A Foundation For The Rigors Of Secondary School Education

WELCOME FROM THE PCS PRINCIPAL



Hello and welcome! My name is Mr. Ave Womack and I am the proud Principal of the Preparatory Course for Secondary (PCS). Prior to having this wonderful opportunity of working with this amazing group of educators and students, I served in a private/ independent school in my hometown of Los Angeles, CA, USA. Before this post, I worked in an international school in Shanghai, China for seven years.

Let me take some time to describe to you a typical PCS student. PCS students are full of confidence, studious, and want to make a positive impact in the world. Additionally, PCS students embody the IB Learner Profile and strive to be reflective, open-minded, risk-takers, caring, balanced, principled, knowledgeable, inquirers, communicators, and thinkers. Furthermore, PCS students embody our school values of integrity, courage, ingenuity, and compassion. With a deep curiosity about the world, PCS students embrace language learning and international mindedness.

Our PCS Teachers are not only well versed and masters of their subject area, but also foster a deep sense of belonging with all of their students. In PCS and Stamford, the academic programs are intertwined with the social and emotional learning programs, which means that we prioritize the well-being of all students. I always say "Happy Students like to study"!

As we look at the Stamford Vision, "Inspiring students to create their unique future", this is the foundation, through line, and goal for PCS and the school. We wholeheartedly believe that students can achieve anything that they set their minds to. This is where the partnership between the school and parents is vitally important.

We look forward to having parents support the program from home and encourage their child or children to do their best. Our holistic approach allows students to tap into their innate abilities and develop the courage to try new things. Students in PCS look forward to the challenge and understand that they can achieve their goals if they put their mind to it.

In PCS, we offer two elite English language learning programs. The first program is our world renowned face-to-face program for PCS grades 6 - 10 on our Woodleigh campus in Singapore and our second program is the Foundational Academic English (FAE) program that is offered online. The FAE program offers an opportunity for English Language Learners in grades 6 -10 to build their English Language Acquisition skills through asynchronous and synchronous lessons. Students who complete the FAE program will have the opportunity to join the PCS face-to-face program.

I am personally super excited about both groundbreaking programs which are aimed to support English Language Acquisition in a creative and meaningful way. PCS is a great place to be and makes learning English super fun! Our homeroom environment nurtures students' well-being and inspires them to be their authentic selves.

I look forward to seeing you in person or online. Go Lions!

Ave Womack

Preparatory Course for Secondary School Principal

Home to over 75 nationalities and
a leading international school in
Singapore, Stamford American
International School provides the best
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THE SAME STAMFORD AMERICAN CURRICULUM, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Designed in collaboration with UCL Institute of Education, no other program in Singapore offers the range of content-rich courses, helping students eager to make the most of their formative education realize their scholarly and linguistic potential.

Our highly skilled PCS faculty are at the forefront of English language acquisition pedagogy. Moreover, the PCS curriculum uses the same framework as the mainstream Stamford American Middle Years Program (MYP).

While instruction is modified to meet the needs of students at varying stages of English language acquisition, the content of each lesson remains at the same high standard found in mainstream classes. In practice this means that our classes are inquiry based and project driven, and importantly, an MYP equivalent score in PCS is the same as an MYP score in the mainstream.

“What I like about PCS is that I have met new people from other places like China, Korea, Italy and Denmark. PCS is a good program to help me to improve my English level and to get to the Mainstream.”

- Nicole from Spain

PCS Curriculum at-a-glance



Math



Study Skills



Science



Interdisciplinary Learning



Literature



Language Acquisition



Humanities



Physical Health and Education



A HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

The first semester commences July and consists of 20 consecutive weeks, with breaks following Stamford American school holidays, national holidays and Thanksgiving.

Students receive individualized feedback in the form of classroom projects, homework, and formative/summative assessments in order to accurately monitor student progress.

Personalized support is also found in our PCS advisory program, which encompasses holistic daily pastoral care and social and emotional check-ins. Our teacher advisors and pastoral team leaders provide caring support to each student, while also monitoring their academic progress.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WIDER STAMFORD AMERICAN SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Most importantly, every student is given the opportunity to engage with the broader Stamford American school community. This includes involvement in co-curricular activities (CCAs), drama productions, Stamford student council, music and athletics as part of the program requirement.

“I came from Korea, and I was not used to using English but it changed when I came here. The main strength of this program is group work. Group work has made me speak more in class instead of the teacher explaining everything”

- Sean from South Korea



ADMISSION & GRADUATION

PCS ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

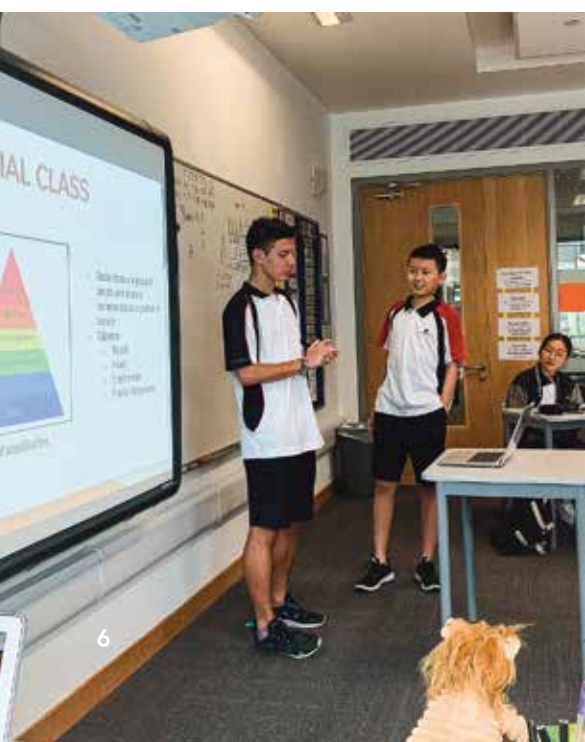
Applicants interested in joining the PCS program first need to demonstrate English proficiency by meeting the grade-level SLATE test score entry criteria (see table). After testing, applicants will meet with the PCS faculty to gauge an applicant's standard of conversational English and overall fit for the program. Successful applicants must also have a strong academic record, and extra-curricular interests and leadership experience are highly valued.

The entry criteria to be admitted to the program are as follows:

GRADE	SLATE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST SCORE REQUIRED (RANGE BETWEEN):
6th graders	1.5 to 2.9
7th graders	1.5 to 2.9
8th graders	1.5 to 3.4
9th graders	2.5 to 3.9
10th graders	3.5 to 4.4

Interview by the PCS Sub-school team is also required for PCS applications and is the determining factor for accepting students into PCS.

The SLATE test is administered three times during the program and is one of the determining factors for students to graduate from the PCS program.



GRADUATION FROM PCS

In order to graduate from PCS, each student must meet the necessary criteria according to the grade level (see table).

The exit criteria to graduate and be admitted to Stamford American mainstream:

GRADE	MYP SCORE REQUIRED FOR EACH CLASS (MINIMUM)	SLATE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST SCORE REQUIRED (MINIMUM)
6th graders	4.0	3.0
7th graders	4.0	3.0
8th graders	4.0	3.5
9th graders	4.0	4.0
10th graders	4.0	4.5

In addition, all students must demonstrate strong classroom performance on graded material, and receive teacher recommendations in order to graduate from PCS and transfer to the mainstream.

After completing the course and successfully meeting the exit criteria, students will be welcome to join Stamford American mainstream courses.

Note: In the event that a student does not fulfill the course graduation requirements within their first semester they are permitted to study in the program for one more semester, for a maximum of two semesters.

STRUCTURED SUPPORT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Homework Club has been designed to help structure student's days in such a way where they are able to achieve a much healthier school-life balance. It is a time for students to come together after school and complete their assignment and ask questions of their teachers. This sets up our students to be able to leave school with the vast majority of their homework completed, giving them a time to rest, relax, and engage in physical activity when they get home.

Teacher/student ratio:

Advisories



Classes





Stamford American INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1 Woodleigh Lane
(Off Upper Serangoon Road),
Singapore 357684

T: +65 6653 7907
E: admissions@sais.edu.sg
W: www.sais.edu.sg/pcs



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