

Leadership Posting

Director of World Languages Singapore American School *Republic of Singapore*

Application Deadline: October 15, 2019

Start Date: July 2020



Director of World Languages
Singapore American School
Republic of Singapore

October 2019

HISTORY OF SINGAPORE AMERICAN SCHOOL

In 1956 Singapore American School opened its doors for the first time to 105 students. Today the purpose-built campus in the Woodlands district on the island provides learning opportunities to over 1,200 high school students (nearly 4,000 Preschool-12) across 63 nationalities, all under one roof in Singapore, the present-day banking and multinational corporation hub of Asia.

SAS WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM

World languages are proficiency based and are a key part of the SAS program and culture. All elementary students are offered a daily world language program in either Chinese or Spanish. Middle and High School students may pursue Chinese, Spanish or French. At the high School level, college level course offerings are available in each of these language pathways. The school has also introduced a Mandarin immersion program for students in grades K-2, with plans to continue to expand this through grade 5 as these students move up through the system.

SAS began its long partnership and commitment to forward-thinking curricula in the 1960s, establishing itself from the outset as a school dedicated to rigorously preparing students for the future. In 1973, the school committed to service and experiential learning. These programs remain robust and continue to provide additional pathways for student growth and engagement.

Singapore American School has consistently and successfully committed itself to high performance in educating young people, whether that be through traditional academic achievement or through its commitment to initiatives that are on the leading edge of educational research and development.

SAS has more than 50 world language and immersion teachers in the school. Our teachers work in collaborative Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with some world language teachers taking on additional PLC leadership responsibilities.



A RESEARCH-BASED, INNOVATIVE PROGRAM

SAS is guided both by the school's mission of "providing an exemplary American education with an international perspective" and the school's vision, "A World Leader in Education, Cultivating Exceptional Thinkers, Prepared for the Future." Its mission and vision have led the school to embrace several important and innovative initiatives in recent years. This includes: the introduction of flexible learning environments and a personalized learning approach to ensure that all students continue to learn at high levels. The school's students embody SAS' culture of possibilities - there are so many roads for students to travel.

The School's innovative programs reflect the dedication and passion of SAS faculty and students, and are part of the school's work to simultaneously embrace needed changes while ensuring high standards, depth and rigor, and extraordinary care for every student.



A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY-STUDENTS

While over half of 4,000 SAS students are United States citizens, the student body is comprised of more than 60 nationalities. There are, on average, 300 students in each elementary K-5 grade, with an average of 22 students per class. Our Middle School has more than 900 students and our high students has a group of 1200 students.

Our students speak highly of the prevalent culture of extraordinary care and about the quality of relationships between students and teachers. These are some of the factors which make students time at SAS outstanding. Although a relatively large community, the school strives to care for the hearts and minds of each and every individual student.



Faculty:

The SAS faculty is diverse, with 60% originating in the United States and many hailing from Commonwealth nations. 80% of teachers hold a master's degree or higher, and over half of the teachers have been part of the SAS community for 10-20 years. This kind of longevity is a remarkable and rare testament to the strength of the professional experience offered at SAS and allows for consistency and continuity. The faculty demonstrate a sincere commitment to professional development and continuous growth.

PARENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

Parent engagement is a key part of the SAS culture. The School has an experienced board, an active and community-supported Parent Teacher Association, and a Booster Club that raises funds to support students. Parents are committed to advancing the School and to the best interest of the students with many actively participating in philanthropic efforts to support the SAS Foundation as well as to enhance academic, experiential, and extracurricular activities for students. SAS parents take a very strong interest in the SAS World Language and immersion programs offered.



Leadership Responsibilities:

Leadership, Management, and Facilitation:

The World Language Director is responsible for facilitating the successful implementation of SAS strategic initiatives in grades Preschool through 12 in order to fulfil the school's mission and vision as it relates to the World Language program. To this end, the Director of World Languages is charged with leading the SAS world language program. This includes providing dedicated oversight and support to more than 50 teachers in the World Language and Immersion program and more than 15 program instructional assistants, ensuring a clear, consistent focus on student learning, achievement, and wellness. This individual will lead and directly supervise faculty and support staff in a fashion that aligns deliberately to the development of critical strategic initiatives.

In coordination with the division principals, s/he will also provide leadership in all areas of world language teaching, learning, and teaming. This includes leadership in the realms of curriculum and instruction, educational technology, student assessment and use of data, and learning support. This leader will build strong relationships with faculty and provide them with professional mentorship.



Living in Singapore:

Singapore has been consistently rated as one of the world's best expatriate destinations and it offers safety, a well developed infrastructure and vibrant and diverse community. Housing ranges from high rise apartments to single family houses to traditional shop house style living. Public transportation networks and links are extensive, and Singapore's Changi Airport offers ease of access for affordable off-island family travel across Asia. Singapore enjoys a very low crime rate, and high quality health care. Singapore is considered one of the best places in the world to live and thrive.

SAS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Director of World Languages provides the following services: leadership in the implementation of the proficiency-based world language and immersion programs that meets the needs of all students; professional development for instructional improvement based on current research, trends in language teaching, and student needs; and leadership in developing and carrying out extracurricular language activities for students; stays abreast of trends and issues in language education and brings innovation and renewal to instruction; collaborates with teachers to promote instructional consistency and a shared direction and with colleagues in other content areas on interdisciplinary curriculum and staff development; stays actively involved in foreign/second language organizations and provides up-to-date knowledge to all divisions; serves as a source of specialized information for language teachers and the community.





Leading the Learning

- Articulate the vision for teaching and learning at SAS, support the vision with short and long-term plans for the world language and immersion programs, and sustain a culture conducive to continuous improvement across all school divisions.

- Support coherent and consistent learning experiences for students by ensuring commonalities in the areas of content, skills, dispositions and expectations throughout and across grade levels and divisions.

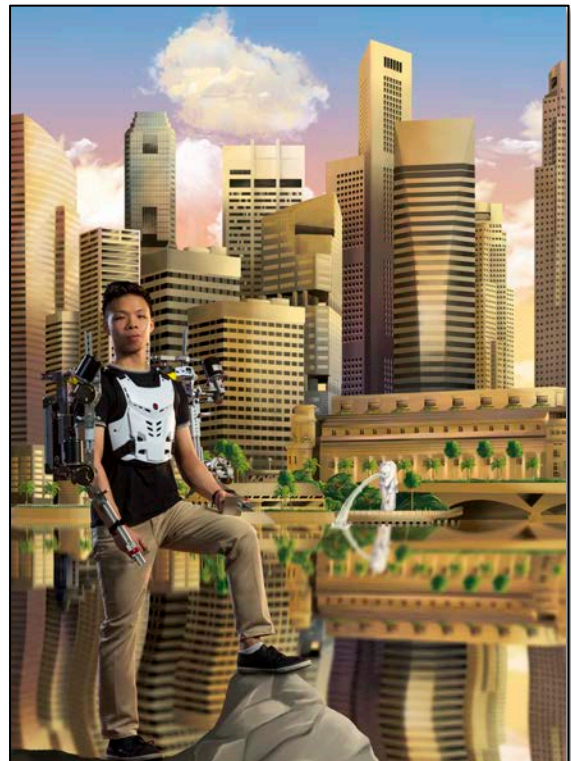
- Improve student learning by supporting the ongoing collection, analysis, and use of information about student learning (both qualitative and quantitative) to identify next steps in learning, intervention strategies, curriculum adaptations, etc.

- Lead learning-focused and collaborative world language and immersion teams aligned with the SAS strategic plan, using structures and resources provided. Build effective teams through recruitment, orientation, coaching, mentoring, and professional learning.

- Provide leadership in the organization, delivery, and evaluation of PLCs across the world language department.

- Oversee the continued development of professional learning communities to foster a common PLC culture across the system. Supervise goal-setting processes for world language PLCs to assist with establishing professional learning opportunities to support the work of faculty members and divisions.

- Provide direction in and maintain up-to-date knowledge of educational reform and its application in the world language context, and participate in on-going training to enhance professional skills and improve the school's work towards its vision. Serve as an instructional leader role model.

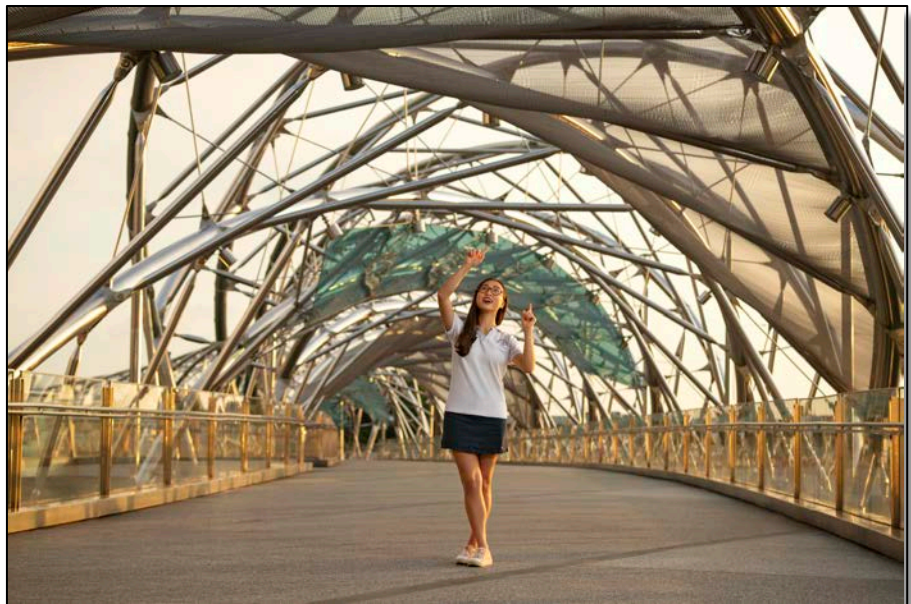


MANAGING THE LEARNING

- Manage the time, energy and work of the world language department to have optimum impact on student learning. This will include:
- Manage meetings within the world language and immersion PLC teams/divisions/vertically in order to have the maximum impact on student learning
- Manage communications within the world language and immersion departments to have the maximum impact on student learning
- Manage accurate and viable curricular information and its availability to have the optimum impact on student learning, in coordination with the Office of Learning
- Provide leadership and effective supervision for staff members assigned to the world language department in order to stimulate each individual's growth and improve instructional effectiveness (inclusive of regular classroom visitations)

OTHER DUTIES

- Facilitate and develop positive and effective communication and relationships in a complex environment with the various constituents of the community including parents, students, faculty, division leadership, and central administration, as well as the international school network at large
- Support the continuing development and implementation of the K-5 immersion program and corresponding 6-12 future program offerings (in conjunction with divisional leadership)
- Recognize and strengthen personal performance through self-analysis of actions, participating in professional development activities, exploring educational research, participating in professional organizations, and through formal renewal programs.
- Act as an active member of the P-12 Office of Learning, participating in meetings, presentations, and functions related to schoolwide priorities and support..
- Perform other related duties and assume other responsibilities as assigned by the Chief Academic Officer.



The Candidate:

The successful candidate for Director of World Languages at Singapore American School will likely exhibit the following qualities and attributes:

- Advanced degree in Educational Administration or Language Education
- Significant leadership experience in the area of language education and ability to speak with confidence and authority on world language and immersion learning in relationship to developing proficiency in communication
- A demonstrated track record of successful teaching of any world language, curriculum development and assessment
- Excellent interpersonal skills, facilitation skills and communication skills
- Knowledge and understanding of research proven pedagogical practice, e.g. language proficiency levels, professional learning communities (PLC), personalizing learning.
- Results-oriented, with demonstrated skills in using data to inform and improve student learning and world language programs
- Self-motivated, energetic, and creative.
- English (Native or Near Native)
- Chinese (Advanced or Native) with additional advanced level Spanish or French preferred

Terms of Employment: The successful candidate will be offered a two-year initial administrative contract, with subsequent year-to-year contracts dependent upon demonstrated achievement towards annual goals.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline: **October 15, 2019**

Interested candidates are required to:

- Apply online via the link: [Director of World Languages](#)
- Provide at least two current references as a part of the application process

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Instructions

The deadline for application is October 15, 2019. Candidates who wish to be considered for this role may submit their application via the following link.

<http://www.hirebridge.com/jobseeker2/viewdetailintra.asp?joblistid=515447&come=IN&page=1&logo=yes&s=&cid=6379&acceptShift=0>