

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SEARCH

SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

ssis.edu.vn

Start date: July 2026



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

Mission Statement

SSIS is a college preparatory school committed to the intellectual and personal development of each student in preparation for a purposeful life as a global citizen.

Core Values

Academic Excellence, Sense of Self, Respect for All, Balance in Life, and Dedicated Service

At a Glance



Established
1997



Middle School
enrollment
416



Total Middle School
Faculty
43



Average class size
21



IB courses
36



Nationalities represented
in student body
48



Faculty with advanced
degrees
73+%



Campus size
14.8 acres

Total school enrollment: **1,550**

Total faculty: **190**

Nationalities represented in the faculty: **25**

Nationalities represented in the MS faculty: **9**



Overview

When Middle School teachers at Saigon South International School (SSIS) talk about their school, they describe a place filled with joy and purpose: a positive and powerful culture, happy students, supportive and collaborative leadership, empowered faculty, an environment that supports growth, and resources that “lift you up.” These voices capture the spirit of SSIS.

Since its founding in 1997 as a not-for-profit entity of the Phu My Hung Corporation, SSIS, located in the Tan Hung Ward of Ho Chi Minh City, has been shaped by a clear vision of excellence and care. Its founders, Ferdinand Tsien and Lawrence Ting, Taiwanese businessmen and visionaries with school governance experience in Taiwan, dreamed of building an international school with a truly multinational population, offering an American-style education in a diverse and supportive environment.

That vision flourished. The school has grown exponentially, 48 nationalities are now represented in the Early Childhood - Grade 12 student body of 1,550 students, with plans to grow the student population to 1,800 over the next five years. The school’s riverside campus spans 6 hectares (14+ acres), with soccer fields, playgrounds, and abundant green spaces. Based on North American standards, the curriculum challenges students academically while also focusing on character and personal development.



The Position

The Middle School at SSIS recently entered an exciting new chapter with the opening of its purpose-built facility, designed by Boston-based Flansburgh Architects and inspired by the rice terraces of Sapa in northern Vietnam. More than 400 students in grades 6-8 are supported by 43 full-time teachers in this state-of-the-art learning space. Alive with possibility, the Middle School invites students to explore STEAM, design, drama, dance, public speaking, and more. With a student-centered philosophy that cultivates independence, curiosity, and character, the strong culture of care and well-being ensures that students are known, supported, and challenged, both academically and personally.

Faculty members can take on formal middle-level leadership roles, and the Principal works closely with an Associate Principal, two school counselors, and a dedicated administrative team. The curriculum includes English Language Arts, Mathematics, Technology, Visual Arts, Advisory, and comprehensive EAL and Learning Support programs.

The next Middle School Principal will be central in continuing to shape and nurture a thriving division, strengthening the community, and helping students and faculty reach their fullest potential. As a key member of the PreK-12 Senior Leadership Team, the Academic Leadership Team, and the Middle School Leadership Team, the Principal will serve as both the advocate for middle school and as a thought partner, collaborator, and coach in advancing the whole-school mission, vision, and values.



Opportunities and Challenges

Amplify the middle school vision

The next Principal will have the exciting opportunity to continue developing programs and activities that align with the impressive middle school facilities and connect seamlessly with both the elementary and high school divisions. Areas outlined for expansion include after-school activities, increased STEAM opportunities, a robust advisory program, more sports, enhanced student leadership opportunities, and a greater emphasis on inclusiveness and respect among students.

Continue standards-based work in the curriculum

The Principal will lead the collaborative process of continuing the work in standards-based learning, including assessment, recording, and reporting practices, as well as ensuring strong vertical and horizontal articulation, and the thoughtful use of data to inform instruction and decision-making.

Maintain focus on wellness

The MS advisory program supports the unique needs of middle schoolers as they are growing into young adults. Core Values anchor the program, while House League competitions and assemblies bring the community together. The next Principal will continue to strengthen opportunities that nurture and support students' social and emotional growth and well-being.

Manage change and cultivate a positive culture

SSIS is known for its collaborative culture, where faculty and leaders work side by side to implement

a shared educational vision. Through word and deed, the Principal will nurture this culture, inspiring trust, agency, and belonging, and cultivating the culture of loyalty and excellence that defines the school.

Oversee and manage growth

The Principal will bring a strong understanding of how to manage and facilitate the growth of enrollment and programs while maintaining quality and staying true to the school's mission-driven practices.



Qualifications and Personal Attributes

The ideal candidate will be an experienced educational leader with an advanced degree in education and teaching certification or a master's or doctoral degree in educational leadership. Prior experience as a Middle School Teacher and as a Middle School Principal, successfully leading a middle school toward academic excellence, is expected.

The next SSIS Middle School Principal will demonstrate:

- The ability to foster learning environments and relationships that nurture both the intellectual and personal development of each student
- Experience leading diverse communities, skill in fostering inclusive communities, and the ability to advance intercultural competencies
- Visible joyful presence in the daily life of the Middle School, forming strong connections with students, faculty, and parents
- Strategic thinking, clear vision, and the ability to align systems and processes to bring change to life
- Skill in faculty growth and professional learning
- An open, collaborative, and responsive leadership style that welcomes perspectives, builds trust, and strengthens the community
- Strong written, verbal, and presentation skills
- Organizational ability balanced with flexibility and adaptability
- A growth mindset, a good sense of humor, and a spirit of joy in leading and learning alongside others

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Formerly known as Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City is a dynamic city of more than 9 million residents. It's a place where ancient traditions meet modern life, where energy, hospitality, and opportunity converge. Everyone who arrives in the city is struck by its vivacious energy and gracious hospitality.

As Vietnam's center for finance, technology, education, and culture, Ho Chi Minh City welcomes more than 7 million visitors each year. Cafés, dining, live music, sports, shopping, and cultural institutions offer something for everyone, while French architecture and history sit alongside a thriving, modern cityscape. Travel within and beyond the city is easy, with taxis, buses, ride-hailing services, and Tan Son Nhat International Airport connecting residents to the region and the world.

SSIS is located in Tan Hung Ward (formerly District 7), in Phu My Hung, a community planned and built by the Phu My Hung Corporation, which is known as the "greenest" and most walkable part of the city. As one administrator put it, "the best suburb I've ever lived in." The neighborhoods around the school offer a calm and family-friendly lifestyle, with downtown Ho Chi Minh City less than 10 km away. Increasingly, families from other districts choose SSIS for its reputation as the school of choice in the city.

The lush campus stretches along a tributary of the Saigon River, with many classrooms and offices featuring expansive natural views. The beauty of Vietnam and the warmth of its culture are embedded in the campus, creating an inspiring setting for teaching and learning.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Saigon South International School.

[School Website](#)

[Core Values](#)

[Virtual Campus Tour](#)

[College Matriculation](#)



To Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position
- A statement of educational philosophy or your leadership practice (no more than two pages)
- A current résumé
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

Karen Neitzel, Ed.D

Senior Consultant

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