

# **Dostyk American International School**

## **2011-2012**

Dostyk American International School (DAIS) is a school that primarily serves approved expatriate families. Students in Pre-kinder through the eighth grade are taught by experienced certified teachers.

DAIS opened its doors for operation in September 2002. The school is under the management of International Schools Services (ISS), which has its headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey. ISS is a non-profit organization which directly manages schools for various corporations worldwide, procures instructional supplies for hundreds of international schools, hires staff, manages foundations, and develops curricula. DAIS is internationally accredited through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

These few pages are designed to provide information to help you understand the current operation of the school. We hope it answers your initial questions and gives you an understanding of the educational expectations and values we hold as a school. From the first day of operation the students, teachers, and parents have helped make the school a success. Students have committed themselves to the task of meeting the high expectations set by the teachers and teachers have given their best to offer the students a challenging and rewarding educational experience. Parents have supported the school by providing special activities and celebrations for students to enrich their school experience, and have given the DAIS staff their trust and support which is crucial to the success of any school. It takes this kind of support to make a school successful.

As you read through this document, if you have any questions please contact me at [rhinojosa@daiskz.org](mailto:rhinojosa@daiskz.org) or call the school office at 209-203.

Dr. Raúl Hinojosa  
Director, Dostyk American International School

## **What do we believe?**

### **ISS Mission and Beliefs:**

The mission of ISS schools, serving the children of families employed overseas by multinational companies, is to provide a challenging academic program, and to enable students to continue their learning with the knowledge, abilities, and understanding, gained from their experience of living abroad.

### **We believe that:**

- Family is the primary influence on a child's development and learning.
- Honesty and respect are essential in successful relationships.
- People are accountable for their actions.
- Desire to learn is an intrinsic human quality.
- A supportive, positive partnership among school, family, and community fosters successful learning.
- All children can learn when the expectations and learning environment support the child.
- Meaningful learning is enhanced through active involvement in the learning process.
- Development of independence, collaboration, and critical thinking are fundamental to quality education.
- Developing skills necessary to live in an ever-changing world is essential.
- Learning to set goals and priorities is a requisite to a successful learning.
- Respect and recognition of cultural diversity is fundamental to understanding and developing an appreciation of others.
- Cooperation and collaboration are essential to an individual's success in a diverse society.
- Active involvement in community is a critical component in developing responsible, caring youth.

### **Educational philosophy:**

The school believes that:

- The school's program should value the development of well-rounded students.
- Students should conduct themselves in a responsible way.
- Students should come with an understanding of right and wrong and respect for themselves and others.
- The school's program should challenge students and hold high expectations for each individual.
- The school's program should encourage students to achieve their full potential in all academic areas through a variety of teaching strategies and learning opportunities.
- The curriculum should include a sound foundation in the language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, technology, physical education, creative arts, foreign languages and cultural studies.

- The school's program should provide for the intellectual, physical, emotional, social development of each student.
- The school should provide an interesting and stimulating learning environment.
- The school's program should be supported by an abundance of resources.
- The school's program should take advantage of the unique overseas experience and assist students in exploring the culture of Kazakhstan and other countries.
- The school's program should instill a life long love of learning.

## **What will students learn?**

### **Student exit outcomes:**

- Students demonstrate a solid academic foundation and apply a variety of thinking and reasoning strategies to identify and solve problems, and make thoughtful decisions.
- Students demonstrate proficiency in many forms of communication.
- Students demonstrate adaptability, flexibility, and positive self-esteem.
- Students work successfully in groups as collaborative and cooperative members.
- Students demonstrate a strong work ethic and strive to reach their potential.
- Students will recognize and have knowledge of patterns that will enable them to generalize, make predictions, and think on a more abstract level.
- Students demonstrate a solid foundation in environmental science and understand the long-term effects of their actions and decisions on the environment.
- Students will demonstrate and adopt a safe and healthy lifestyle.
- Students demonstrate attitudes, self-motivation, and interpersonal skills that enable them to be lifelong learners.
- Students demonstrate an appreciation for their own culture and cultures different from their own.
- Students understand moral and ethical viewpoints and take responsibility for their decisions and actions.
- Students will demonstrate respect for themselves, others, property, and authority.

### **What can students expect from DAIS?**

- A safe, clean, and orderly environment.
- Respect as an individual.
- Caring and qualified teachers.
- To be trusted.
- Know what is expected of them as a student.

## Who attends our school?

**Admission guidelines:** The educational program will provide formal classes for students in Pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade. The sponsoring company must approve children for admission.

- DAIS accepts sponsor nominated secondee dependents that hold a non-host country passport.
- Students must have updated vaccinations and be prepared to hand over appropriate medical records.
- At the time of admission, students must submit all school documents of their entire school career.
- Students are placed in the appropriate grade level based on birth date. October 1 will be the cut-off date for all grades.
- Children entering Pre-kinder and Kindergarten must be four or five years of age by October 1 of the academic year they enroll.
- Children entering the first grade must be six years of age by October 1 of the academic year they enroll.
- All approved applicants above grade 1 will be placed initially on grade level according to birth date.
- Students may not be older than 14 years old when entering the eighth grade.
- All students must be within one grade level of reading, writing, and oral comprehension competency in the English language as determined by the school through testing. The school does not offer English as a second language instruction for non native English speakers.
- Students must be English speaking. Students whose native language is not English must take an English proficiency exam before a determination of admission can be made. Pre-kinder and Kinder may be assessed before admission is granted and a final decision on acceptance will be made within two school weeks. Students applying for grades 1-8 will be assessed in reading, writing, and oral language prior to a final decision on admission. Records from previous schools will be reviewed to ascertain patterns in academic development.
- Students with special needs may not be granted admission. The DAIS program does not provide for special remedial needs related to limited vision, impaired hearing, speech impediments, emotional problems, moderate to severe physical limitations, or moderate to severe learning difficulties. Exclusion of students with special education remedial needs may occur before enrollment, or at any time after admission. Students must be able to function independently in the regular classroom, as the school is not equipped with special services. This not only includes intellectual capacity, but their emotional/social development as well.
- Students with a range of academic abilities will be provided a challenging academic program, but special class placement and gifted classes will not be provided.
- Parents are responsible for the full disclosure of all information requested for the admission process.

- All final decisions for admission and grade placement rest with the Director of the school. All students are subject to a two-week probationary period to determine if placement at DAIS is appropriate.

## How do you apply?

### **Registration: All documents required must be submitted to the school's office.**

- A documentation of birth date must be provided. This can be a photocopy of the passport page or a birth certificate.
- All school records for children who have attended kindergarten classes or above, including standardized test results.
- Medical information must be listed on registration form. It is important to inform the school about allergic reactions, medications, epilepsy and any physical limitations.
- Complete health information, including immunizations, vision/hearing screening, and on-going (daily) use of prescription medication.
- Copies of any psychological reports.
- A written description of any special educational support your child may need related to academic programs or emotional support, or physical adaptations.
- Copies of any Individual Education Plans from previous schools.
- Please hand-carry all required records to Kazakhstan. Do not pack them in your shipment.
- Completed application form must accompany all required documents.
- For additional information or questions concerning the process please contact the Director, Dr. Raúl Hinojosa, at [rhinojosa@daiskz.org](mailto:rhinojosa@daiskz.org)

## When is the school in session?

### **School hours:**

- Pre-kindergarten: 8:00am until 12:00 pm for the school year.
- Kindergarten: 8:00am until 2:00pm.
- Grades 1-8: 8:00am until 3:15pm.
- Lunch: 12:00pm until 12:45pm.
- Arrival at school should be between 7:50-7:55am.
- Morning snack time and recess at 10:00am
- Return from lunch between 12:30pm – 12:40pm

These times are subject to change depending on needs and circumstances at our school.

**School calendar:** Classes usually begin the third week in August with a fall holiday scheduled in October and a winter holiday during December. Spring break is usually scheduled in March or April and coincides with an international teacher's conference. Last day of class is Thursday, May 31, 2012. Please refer to the calendar on the school website [www.daiskz.org](http://www.daiskz.org)