

## Shanghai American School – Success Story

*“We believe PowerSchool is the best student information system available worldwide.”*

TK Ostrom, Shanghai American School



### Challenge

Shanghai American School (SAS) is an independent, non-profit, American education program for expatriate students from Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade.

As China's largest international school, SAS has over 3,000 students from nearly 40 countries. With a campus on each side of Shanghai, SAS serves as the educational and cultural centers for many in the expatriate community in Shanghai.

With two campuses, SAS needed one student information system (SIS) that was accessible, yet robust, to integrate their data. They needed a system that could meet the needs of staff, students, and parents in real-time, while making sure the school was poised for growth as technology advances.

SAS' previous SIS could not meet those needs. To start, data was stored on three different systems. “Easy access to our system was a challenge,” said TK Ostrom, Director of Admission. “The average teacher had seven usernames and passwords. And our system did not permit teachers to grade assignments easily.”

Additionally, SAS wanted a web-based system through which they could communicate effectively with students and parents. “Having transparent access to the academic lives of children is important to many parents,” said Ostrom. “Our former system is located in the U.S. on a server, shared by a large number of schools. As such, its speed made it frustrating and time-consuming to use.”

To address these challenges, SAS implemented Pearson's PowerSchool® SIS in 2008. Three years later, they added Pearson Inform™. Together, these integrated systems provide information in one solution.

### Solution

Today, SAS has a streamlined system that connects more than just their campuses. PowerSchool connects administrators, parents, teachers, and students.

Student data, including schedules, discipline, grades, and assessment performance, are stored in one system. Just as teachers can enter grades, parents can view their student's information in real-time.

“PowerSchool is an innovative student information system that starts with the student at the center and builds everything around each individual student successively,” said Ostrom. “PowerSchool has become our school's main communication channel to keep us connected.”

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Adding Pearson Inform to their system now allows SAS to generate real-time reports to make all its student data accessible in a variety of ways. With predefined or customized settings, administrators and teachers can now easily analyze progress and assessment information to make data-driven decisions.

## Benefits

Now that PowerSchool has integrated the three data systems used on each of their two campuses, SAS teachers and administrators spend less time on managing data and more time helping students.

“Administrators, teachers, parents, and especially students, are excited about the ease of using PowerSchool to access grades, update information, register for various activities, complete surveys, and gather other important data,” said Ostrom.

Teachers can now enter grades from anywhere using this web-based system. Administrators and teachers can also communicate faster with parents. Through PowerSchool’s numerous levels of permissions, the school can share as much or as little data with users as it chooses.

“This communication tool has revolutionized the way SAS accesses student information throughout the entire community,” declared Ostrom.

She added that SAS parents particularly enjoy the Parent Portal. “Whether it’s a change of address, medical condition, latest immunization, new passport, or visa information, parents can just log onto their Parent Portal.”

The seamless integration of Pearson Inform with PowerSchool has harnessed their new data-rich environment. Reports are readily available to help SAS teachers and administrators make instructional decisions that will bring out the best in their students.

Proud to be an innovative leader in technology, SAS also hosted the first-ever PowerSchool User’s Group conference for Asia’s international schools. With 35 users from 19 international schools, the conference was a place for PowerSchool users in Asia to collaborate, cooperate, and share information.

## About Pearson

Pearson, the global leader in education and education technology, reaches and engages today’s digital natives with effective and personalized learning, as well as professional development for their teachers. The commitment is demonstrated in the company’s investment in innovative print and digital education materials for pre-K through college, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher professional development, career certification programs, and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. The company’s respected brands include Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, Benjamin Cummings, PEMSolutions, Stanford 10, SuccessNet, MyLabs, PowerSchool, SuccessMaker, and many others.

For more information about PowerSchool, please visit our website at [www.PearsonSchoolSystems.com](http://www.PearsonSchoolSystems.com), call 877.873.1550, or email us at [pss\\_sales@pearson.com](mailto:pss_sales@pearson.com).