Jeff Bissell

Head of School
Chinese American International School (CAIS)
San Francisco, CA
Alice: Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?

The Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.

Alice: I don't much care where.

The Cat: Then it doesn't much matter which way you go.
What's your true north?
5th Grade Taiwan Exchange (2weeks)
5th Grade Taiwan Exchange (2weeks)

Program Objectives:
- Enrich mutual cultural understanding;
- Improve second language proficiency;
- Develop a sense of independence and personal responsibility.
5th Grade Taiwan Exchange (2 weeks)

Program Objectives:
• Enrich mutual cultural understanding;
• Improve second language proficiency;
• Develop a sense of independence and personal responsibility.

Program Strategies: Partner School, Ren’ai Municipal Elementary in Taipei, Taiwan; “Buddy” pairing; Academic program; Home stay; Cultural Excursions; Support System; Two-way Exchange.
Program Objectives:

- Use Chinese language to function successfully and appropriately in authentic cultural contexts;
- Learn actively, gaining an understanding of Chinese language, history, cultures, and modern society through experience and engagement in Chinese communities;
- Build self-confidence, independence, leadership skills, and responsibility;
- Develop humility and respect for difference;
- Gain skills to be adaptable and resourceful within a range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
Program Strategies:

- Partner Organizations, Beijing Sanfan Middle School Year Abroad (SYA);
- “Buddy” pairing;
- Home stay;
- 3-4 hrs of intensive language instruction in small, proficiency grouped classes each morning;
- Afternoon experiential, language-based activities;
- Weekend excursions with “buddies”
- Gain skills to be able to adapt and be successful and well-rounded in a range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
8th Grade
China Adventure

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8th Grade
China Adventure

Program Objectives:
• Deepen students’ understanding and appreciation of cultural, economic, and environmental diversity in China;
• Build empathy through direct engagement with local communities;
• Use Chinese language skills with local community members.
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Program Strategies:
Program Partner, Khampa Caravan in Diqing Autonomous Tibetan Prefecture, Yunnan Province; Service learning projects; Rural home stay; Outdoor education; Opportunities for reflection.

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China Inbound
China Inbound

Program Objectives:

- To help support another student in his/her own language-learning and cultural experience;
- To deepen your own family’s cross-cultural understanding and to make your home a global home.
China Inbound

Program Objectives:
• To help support another student in his/her own language-learning and cultural experience;
• To deepen your own family’s cross-cultural understanding and to make your home a global home.

Program Strategies:
• Program Partner, Beijing Sanfan Middle School
• Morning English classes at CAIS,
• Afternoon excursions to local sites, participate in cultural and experiential activities during the week
• Weekend activities with host families
China Faculty Institute, Northern Yunnan Province (2 weeks)
China Faculty Institute, Northern Yunnan Province

(2 weeks)

Program Objectives:

• Experience & understand China’s diversity & the dynamic nature of modern China;
• Develop strong personal connections to people, places, and communities in China through authentic interactions with a diversity of Chinese people;
• Apply knowledge, experience, and personal connections developed in China to enhance participants’ involvement and contribution to the CAIS community;
• Strengthen the CAIS community through shared experiences and collaboration with colleagues;
• Build loci of integration between languages and subject areas;
• Engage in impactful experiences in China that will inspire personal and professional growth.
Key Success Factors

• Mission Consistency
• Strategic Priority
• Focused Objectives
• Financial Commitment
• Dedicated Staffing
• School Community Culture