



Hangzhou International School

杭州国际学校

HIS Clean Environment Policy and AQI Guidelines

At HIS, we take student safety and security very seriously. In partnership with an external provider, HIS will routinely test, monitor and maintain facilities, especially with regard to air, surface, and water quality. Hangzhou will occasionally experience poor air quality and we know this is an important issue to our community. HIS will make every effort to provide a safe and conducive learning environment and therefore have put the following systems and guidelines in place:

- HIS indoor learning spaces and offices (including the gym, cafeteria, performance space and auditorium) will be equipped with international standard air filtration systems. The school will employ communication systems that accurately inform the community.
- HIS will employ communications systems that give constant notification of the status of outside air quality (currently the school utilizes a smartphone app, desktop website, and colored flag notification for air quality index).
- HIS will implement guidelines regarding safe outdoor activities.
- HIS will maintain monitoring systems that measure air quality within a range of indoor learning spaces (select classrooms, gym, cafeteria, performance space, auditorium, and offices)
- HIS will maintain ‘AQI-friendly’ plants within indoor learning spaces
- HIS will routinely train and evaluate staff to ensure the learning environment is safest on all days
- HIS will provide additional information and support to the parent community with regard to improving indoor air quality at home and guidance on safe play and outdoor exposure when students are not at school

Monitoring Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality

The HIS administration is responsible for monitoring and disseminating any relevant air quality information/forecast to the school community. Air quality information will be gathered and accessible routinely during school hours from the internal and external monitoring stations. When air quality reaches certain levels, HIS will need to limit or cancel student activities outside. In addition, information from the media, the state and local authorities, local air pollution control agencies, and health departments will be considered where applicable. To adhere to a reputable international standard, HIS will communicate any concerns regarding air pollution using a color-coded system that is based on the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Quality Index (also used by US Embassy and Consulates in China).

Reducing Student Exposure:

Generally speaking, all enclosed indoor learning and recreation areas should be safe for physical activity even when outdoor air quality is poor. Decisions for reducing exposure to outdoor air pollution will be based on individual risk. Individuals at highest risk (including our youngest students, students with respiratory diseases, and sports or activities that require heavy exertion for extended periods of time) will be given greatest consideration.

v. Dec, 2016