

## Blog 12 – Nanjing International School (NIS) Pt. 1



Every morning, I wake up to the sound of blaring car horns going 'Beep! Beep!' As I get on my way to school, I always feel surrounded on all sides by the sounds of the subway trains whooshing to and fro and the many people chatting on the busy street. But just then, towering red doors welcome me into a place filled with people of all kinds: Asian, Westerners, Indians and probably many others. That is my school: NIS, which only accepts non-Chinese citizens. That's why the whole school is filled with foreign students only. It makes me feel that the big red doors separate two different worlds. The world beyond the doors is filled with the conversations and greetings with 'NiHao!' (你好). But the world within fills your ears with Hello, Konnichiwa, Annye, Hola, Bonjour or even Guten Morgen!



In the morning, I see children wearing smiles on their face. They're eager to start the day at NIS. I feel that going to school here is an enjoyment. The teachers make learning exciting and at the same time you can learn lots! During lunch, we have a whole half an hour to just run free and relax before class comes along again. We have a choice to lie in the fields and hang with our friends, go to the gym and play some indoors sports, or we can even take a trip to the library and spend our free time reading and getting our brains piped up.

NIS offers many classes that I'm very familiar with: Math, P.E, Writing and Reading. But one particular class is quite a challenge for me; Mandarin. Back at Riverglades Elementary (my school in Florida), I was one of the very few bilingual students in my class. But at NIS, almost EVERYONE speaks at least two languages, and some students speak 3 or even 4 languages! There is one boy in my class and his name is Leo. His native language is French. After coming to NIS, he has learned both English and Chinese at school. So he fluently speaks three languages at the age of ten. Next year, when we both start our middle school here, I'm going to pick my third language (either French or Spanish), and he might start his Fourth language. Multilingual students are very common at NIS.



3-2-1-ACTION! My most favorite subject at NIS is DRAMA! The school year is split into 6 different units of Inquiries. Currently, we are studying the first one: Collaboration Builds Strong Communities; all fifth grade classes have to focus and promote this theme. Our Drama teacher has taught us some very entertaining games that are all related to collaboration!! ☺ There is one activity where we are acting a play called 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' The students were all assigned a different role: actors, costume designers, lighting, setting, props and publicity. I chose costume designing. During the process of this assignment, everyone took their responsibility and worked together as a great team. Friday is our day to present the play to the rest of the fifth grade classes. I'm still going through the process of makeup in my mind; I hope it'll be a successful show!

I am looking forward to a year filled with a wide variety of worldwide friends, great adventures, different experiences and the greatest amount of fun along with education you can ever expect for at NIS