



Dear UST Parents,

It seems like it was only yesterday when UST was opening its doors to its first group of students but this June the school will be celebrating its 2-year birthday. We have had very successful two years and we cannot wait for you to experience another great year with us. Here, of course, it is important to mention that we would have not been where we are without your support, for which we are eternally grateful.

The faculty and staff at UST have been very proud to witness a rapid growth of the school - we will be starting our third year with about a 110 students - and the most satisfying thing of all is that a lot of our new students come through referrals from our current families, which shows that UST families are satisfied with what the school has to offer. The students are thriving, they have made tremendous amount of progress and the school works very hard to meet the academic and emotional needs of each individual child. We have achieved a lot in these two years. Also significant is that the school stays true to its mission of providing high quality education at a price much lower than most international schools. In this second year, the school has achieved financial stability, which allows UST to begin putting money aside for our future expansion.

The faculty and staff are extremely devoted to the school and our students. It has been an exciting (and sometimes exhausting!) group effort to develop and nurture UST during these first 2 years. Despite many growing pains and financial challenges that naturally accompany the first two years of any school, we are very proud to acknowledge that in no way did these challenges have any affect on student life or the quality of education our students received.

We would like to emphasize that it takes three to five years to establish and develop consistency in the learning culture that schools provide. UST will need time to truly develop and implement our mission and goals.

The faculty and the administrative leadership team are devoting extensive time and energy to achieving the higher goals we have set for ourselves. Below are some of the short-term and long-term plans and goals we have set for UST for the next several years:

1. To continue improving every aspect of the school: quality of teachers; curriculum development; delivery of teaching instructions; expansion of extra-curricular activities; adding new academic programs and learning equipment/materials etc.
2. To continue improving the academic level of our students to assure that each child reaches his/her highest potential while meeting grade-appropriate academic standards.
3. To start accreditation process

Upon successfully completing two years of school, UST is now eligible to become a candidate for accreditation by international accreditation agencies such as [CIS](#) and [WASC](#). Applying for accreditation will enable UST to measure its educational effectiveness, assess and improve our teaching and learning process, and gain a status of legitimacy among major international schools in Tokyo. Obtaining accreditation is a multi-step process and it generally takes about a year to gain a Candidate status and about 3 years after that to gain full accreditation.

4. To provide assistance to graduating students and families with finding the right middle-school options. UST is graduating our first (two) 6<sup>th</sup> graders this year and we have a bigger group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who will have to start considering middle schools options during next academic year. We understand that finding the right middle school could be a difficult task for some of the families and the choices might vary based on nationality, student's academic level and family's finances, and we would like to assist this process as much as we can. UST has been in contact with several schools regarding student placement and financial support availability. As a service to our graduating families, we are planning to hold individual and/or group information sessions to discuss middle-school options, recommend suitable schools, offer assistance with placement and, if necessary, with seeking financial aid.
5. To start working towards adding a middle school.  
This year we are expanding our Grade 1 into two classes. This is our first step towards starting to build a "critical mass" necessary for running a successful middle school. If everything goes according to plan, we are hoping to expand into middle school in 5 years.
6. To accommodate the growing number of classes and dedicate separate classrooms for Japanese and STEM, we are expanding onto the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of our building. The new layout of classrooms this year is going to be as follows:  
2F: K1-K3  
3F: G1a, G1b, G2 and library  
4F: G3, G4, Office, Art  
5F: Music & Movement  
6F: G5, G6, Japanese room and STEM room

We are very excited and proud to see the school grow and succeed and we look forward to another great year together.

Thank you very much for your continuous support.

Warm regards,  
Natasha Dytham